Death of two Palestinians

Arens asked to make full disclosure

TEL AVIV (AP) — Defence Minister Moshe Arens has been urged by opposition politicians and newspapers to make a full disclosure of a military probe into the deaths of two Arab bus hijackers who died after being captured by Israeli forces. Critics have also called for a probe of what Arens knew and when he knew it, because the defence minister and the Chief of Staff Moshe Levy were at the scene of the hijacking.

Arens released a statement Monday summarizing the findings of a military commission's inquiry into the hijackers' deaths but did not permit publication of the full report or names of individuals involved. Opposition Labour Party politicians on parliament's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee were quoted by Israeli newspapers Wednesday as saying Arens' failure to show them the report could only excite rumours about the unpublished parts of the inquiry's findings.

"What happened was an appalling event that we all reject but we need to concern ourselves with it openly and clearsightedly and to bring to justice all that are involved in it" Haim Bar-Leva, a former chief of staff and opposition member of parliament, was quoted as saying by the 'Haaretz' daily.

One prominent figure, former supreme court Judge Chaim Cohn suggested Arens resign. "The minister is responsible for all the actions of his ministry"..., Cohn was quoted as saying by the 'Hadashot' daily newspaper.

Publisher Uri Avnery, a former parliament member, accused the military commission of evading the question of ministerial responsibility. Columnist Uri Dan, a close associate of Arens' chief political rival Ariel Sharon, asked "who is blurring (the facts) and why?" "Who is protecting whom and why?"

Arens, 58, said on Israel radio that "I don't see any room to speak of ministerial responsibility in the case of an irregularity on the part of people who acted contrary to orders.." He was supported by Prime Minister Shamir, who said it was premature to talk of probing cabinet responsibility.

Arens condemned the killings and added in a television interview that neither he nor the Chief of Staff Moseh Levy were at the site when what had happend. "Neither the Chief of Staff nor I knew it had happend. Had we known, we wouldn't have had to wait for an inquiry commission to investigate these events."

The defence minister announced the inquiry after the bus was hijacked and only after the Hadashot newspaper broke censorship restrictions and published news of the military commission's investigation. He said he did not act sooner because the army's account of what happened indicated there was no wrongdoing.

Hadashot, closed for four days by Arens for violating censorship restrictions last month, on Tuesday published a strip of photographs taken at the scene showing Arens in the frame next to a picture of a young man in handcuffs being led away. It said its photogrupher was standing next to Arens when one of the hijackers was taken off the bus alive and healthy.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Hadashot photographer Alex Levac said he took a photo of Arens about 50 metres from the bus. "A couple minutes later I saw a group of people coming from the bus" he said, adding the people included the prisoners. Arens' spokesman Nahman Shai was quoted as saying Arens did not notice the condition of the captive.

Four Palestinians hijacked an Israeli bus near the town of Ashkelon on 12 April and ordered the driver to speed toward the Egyptian border. Security forces stopped the bus in the Gaza Strip and stormed it. One of the 25 Israeli passengers was killed and eight were wounded when the bus was stormed.

Hours later, the military spokesman said two hijackers were killed instantly and two others had died from their wounds on the way to a hospital. Doubts about their deaths were raised by photographs which came to light despite a censor's ban on their publication and indicated the two captives were not seriously wounded when they were led from the bus.

MOSCOW — The Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers Mr Nikolai Tikhonov (left) shakes hands with Syrian Vice-President Mr Rifaat Assad after a meeting at the Kremlin Wednesday. Mr Assad arrived in Moscow, Monday for a four day official visit. (AP Wirephoto)

The Star talks to 3 Representatives

Continued from page 5

Mr Abu Al Ezz: "Every country has to run an Intelligence Service and certain measures are necessary. The Intelligence Department pursues the truth, and committing mistakes is an inevitable by-product of this process."

Mr Bataineh: "The Intelligence Service is a sensitive institution seeking to ensure the security of the citizen and the country. I do not have qualms about such responsibilities, but certain intelligence practices have to change. The Intelligence Service has to always respect the citizens' dignity, freedom and time."

On the security committee suggested by the Prime Minister:

Mr Shubeilatt: "The committee the Prime Minister suggested is good, but I do not accept the number of committee members he proposed. (The Prime Minister suggested that two to four representatives form the security committee.) Also, I do not agree with the Prime Minister that it is not the duty of the Parliament to check prison conditions. We should have access to inspect our prisons before any other foreign body, national or international does."

Mr Abu Al Ezz: "I endorse the Prime Minister's proposal, but the House already has an administrative committee which handles peoples complaints including those about prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners."

Mr Bataineh: "The security committee will point out and clarify some ambiguities, and will put right any incorrect information the House might receive. I support it fully."

W. German metalworkers' strike becomes worse

Dispute idles 350,000 men

FRANKFURT (AP) — Employers locked out more than 26,000 metalworkers Wednesday and angry union officials called for mass street protests as West Germany's worst labour conflict since 1978 intensified following a collapse in negotiations.

The lockouts at 16 shops in the key industrial state of Hesse brought to about 350,000 the number of workers idled by the dispute over labour demands for a 35-hour workweek with no pay cut. The 17-day wave of walkouts, strike-related layoffs, forced vacations, and lockouts have virtually paralyzed the country's important automaking industry.

Talks broke down Tuesday after management proposed a 38-hour workweek for about 15 per cent of the workforce in a bid to break the stalemate. IG Metall, with 2.5 million members the world's largest single trade union, rejected the compromise. "It is an absolutely inacceptable offer," said Ernst Eisenmann, IG Metall's district leader in the strike-plagued Stuttgart district where the talks were held. No date was set to resume negotiations.

The proposal, disclosed by sources close to the negotiations, indicated that employers were softening their stance after insisting upon a 40-hour workweek in a new contract offering a 3.3 per cent pay raise and provisions for early retirement.

Meanwhile, the Trade Union Federation DGB, umbrella organization for West German's 17 unions and their 8 million members, called on 150,000 workers to take to the streets Wednesday in Hesse to protest the latest lockouts. A Frankfurt Labour court was scheduled later Wednesday to hear IG Mettal's complaint that the morning lockouts against 26,300 workers violated the state constitution.

Talks on a 35-hour workweek without pay cuts in the printing industry also broke off Tuesday, and both sides said they would decide later in the week when to resume bargaining. The printers union, 'IG Druck Und Papier,' called on 5,000 of its members in 50 Hesse shops to stage four-hour warning strikes Wednesday in solidarity with the metalworkers protesting the lockouts.

Sporadic warning strikes by the printers during the past six weeks have occasionally kept West Germany's major newspapers off the stands or forced them to put out streamlined editions. The unions claim that a 35-hour workweek without pay cuts is the only way to protect existing jobs and create new ones for roughly half the country's 2.25 million unemployed. The unemployment rate is 9.1 per cent.

But the government and employers contend that a five-hour reduction in the workweek without pay penalties would hike the costs of West German goods by up to 20 per cent, pricing them out of vital export markets. Some 58,000 metalworkers are on strike, 91,300 have been locked out, and 200,000-plus have been laid off or ordered to take their vacations at factories idled by a lack of parts normally supplied by strike-bound shops.

In Britain the leader of the striking National union of mine workers, Mr Arthur Scargill was arrested Wednesday.

Police Superintendent Tony Prabt said Scargill was charged with obstructing a highway. Scargill was leading about 50 pickets when police officers approached and said they could go no farther, according to police reports.

Arab governments pledge to honour commitmetns to PNF

By Sana' Alul
Special to The Star

AMMAN — The 56th session of the Palestine National Fund ended here on Monday. Seven out of the Fund's 18 members failed to attend. The PLO chairman Mr. Yasser Arafat who attended the opening session on Saturday presented a report on his meeting with Arab leaders on the Fund's financial situation. The Star learned that the various Arab governments have given assurances to honour their financial commitments to the Fund.

A statement issued at the end of the of the session which coincided with the formation of the Palestine Liberation Organization 20 years ago said: "On this same day in 1964, the first Palestinian conference covened in Jerusalem with the participation of the various factions, trends and active forces of Palestinian Arabs, and in the presence representatives from the Arab countries: The conference declared the birth of the PLO to lead the national struggle and to act as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"The PLO raised its three slogans; national unity, national mobilisation and national liberation. Within its framework and on the base of tis slogans and goals, the PLO established its different institutions and departments including the Palestinian National Fund which undertook the task of financing of the PLO's various activities and needs through obligatory tax collected from Palestinian and through Arab financial support."

The statement added that for the past twenty years, the Palestinians continued with their struggle under the flag of the PLO. This struggle which was started since the colonialist Zionist invasion of Palestine entered a new stage that is connected with previous stages. This stage was characterised by sacrifices on the part of Palestinians and other Arabs. It said, the struggle during this phase accomplished great victories and also, suffered bitter setbacks. The most prominent accomplishment is the revival of the revolution as an answer to the 1948 catastrophe. This revolution occupied a significant position within the world liberation movement and in the fight against colonialism, and has been able to impose the presence of Palestinians on the international level.

The Palestine National Fund cooperated during the last two decades with the PLO's organizations within the Palestine National Charter and it has been keen to perform its responsibilities under the most difficult circumstances, the statement said.

The board of directors was keen during those years to adhere to laws and regulations as contained in the charter and byelaws, thus the PNF has been able to meet periodically despite the difficult crises that inhibited the PLO. The statement emphasized that the Fund is determined to proceed with the responsibilities entrusted to it by the representatives of the Palestinian people.

weekly

The Jerusalem Star

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'Ambitious' plan prepared

New five-year plan focuses on industrial development, oil production and Iraqi-Jordanian pipeline, Dr Anani says

BONN (Star) — The Jordanian government is preparing a new five-year plan to commence in 1986 when the current one ends in 1985, Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Dr Jawad Al-Anani said on Wednesday. He was speaking at the Jordanian-German economic seminar, which is taking place in Bonn, West Germany.

The plan contains 'ambitious' projects such as the utilisation of the huge phosphate reserves in Jordan at a total cost of $900million. The project will include setting up housing projects and extending the southern railway line to connect new mining sites to the Aqaba port. A shale oil project is expected to cost the government $650 million, "but it is a profitable project because Jordan will have the capacity to produce 500,000 barrels a day of light and fine quality oil," Dr Anani said. The value of this project, the minister said, lies in the fact that Jordan's oil bill to Saudi Arabia equals $650 million, which is one third of Jordan's total imports.

The German government has expressed its willingness to implement this project together with other ones, such as the Zarqa basin agricultural project. The extension of an oil pipeline from Haditha (Iraq) to Aqaba is subject to the approval "of our brothers in Iraq." Dr Anani said. The primary plans and studies have been completed, he added. He said that the American company, which prepared the designs of the project will supervise its implementation and financial administration. The initial cost of this project will reach $1 billion and the pipeline will be about 950 kilometres, one third of which will run through Iraqi territory. A storage area will be located in Aqaba and the daily capacity of this pipeline will transport some one million barrels of oil a day.

The minister said that for the present time the pipeline project will aim at transporting Iraqi oil only, but later it might be used to pump oil from other countries with Iraq's approval. He added that pipeline will pay for its cost in one month after its launching. Dr. Anani disclosed that the forthcoming five-year plan contains several projects that aims at setting new industrial zones in Jordan and will be financed by Arab countries with West German technical assistance.

The Minister referred to a report in the Euro Newsletter magazine which said Jordan has always been credible because it has honoured its obligations and settled its debts on schedule. "We are among the rare clients because we always respect the rights of others," he said.

Dr. Anani emphasized that Jordan's economic plans take into consideration the needs of future generations because the population of the country will reach 5 million by the year 2000.

Dr. Anani said the economic development of the West Bank is a collective Arab responsibility and Jordan is doing its best in this respect. He warned against the perpetuation of occupation that might end up in swallowing the land. "Israel is using all means to force the Arabs out of their land through economic suppression and terrorism," he concluded.

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Lebanese attack Israeli troops

TEL AVIV (AP)— Two attacks on Israeli troops in Lebanon Wednesday marked the second anniversary of Israel's invasion and Israel radio said that the army had taken extra security measures.

The military spokesman's office said a roadside bomb, activated by wire, exploded as a patrol passed by one kilometre (a half-mile) East of Kfar Maroub. One kilometre south of the Zaharani river, attackers fired light arms and rocket-propelled grenades at Israeli troops stationed in the area.

'Labour Ministry will be fair': Dr Utoum

Measures taken to curb growing unemployment in Jordan

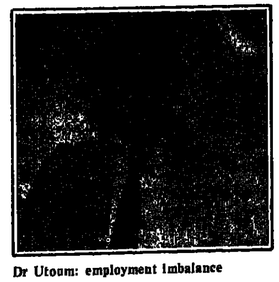
By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Labour Ministry has issued new measures to tackle the problem of employment imbalance in the country. In order to define the exact number of non-Jordanians holding jobs in Jordan, and to obtain further information about their professions, nationalities, work and home addresses as well as the names of employers, the ministry has made obtaining work permits a must — with heavy fines for those who do not abide with the law.

Dr Mansour Utoum, director of the Labour Ministry's Employment Office, told The Star that such measures aim at — among other things — lifting the country out of what he described as "the period of labour market imbalance" There are several sectors which are in need for non-Jordanian workers due to the lack of Jordanian ones, while some sectors have both Jordanian and non-Jordanians workers surpluses. It is the latter which the ministry is keen on dealing with to provide working priority for Jordanians.

The new amendment requires all non-Jordanian workers to either obtain work permits or renew expired ones after a two-month grace period starting from Saturday 2 June; the issue date of the new law amendment.

The necessary papers required for applying for a work permit or renewing an expired one are the work contract, passport, residency permit, a personal photo and for non-Arab workers coming into the country, an advanced approval from the Labour and Interior Ministries. The fees set for obtaining work permits are JD 10 for Arabs and JD 30 for foreigners.



Dr Utoum: employment imbalance

The minimum of JD 30 will be charged as fines for each month delay in applying for a work permit after the two-month grace period for all workers except those in the agricultural sector, who have a three-month grace period, due to Jordan's need for non-Jordanian workers for this field.

But not all those who seek a work permit or a renewal of an expired one will find them. Dr Utoum said that before anything is carried out, the ministry will check its lists to see whether there are any Jordanians who need the jobs held by their non-Jordanian counterparts.

These lists come from the ministry's employment offices located throughout Jordan, where job seekers register their names and occupations.

Dr Utoum explained that if Jordanians are found to need such jobs, the ministry will immediately refuse to issue a work permit and contact the employer to inform him that his non-Jordanian employee can be replaced. It is then up to the employer to interview the suggested job seeker and judge if he or she is a suitable replacement. Yet, employers must not overlook the law that non-Jordanian employees are hired only under the condition that their experience or qualifications are either unavailable or seldom found among Jordanians.

The Labour Ministry aims to be as fair as possible. "Problems do arise, for there are several Jordanian workers who register for jobs they hardly have any skills for. We will not help them to trick employers in such matters," Dr Utoum said. Another problem the employment offices face is that although there are several job opportunities open for Jordanians in cities and towns other than in Amman and Zerka, many appliers turn these opportunities down.

The Labour Ministry plans to take a further step to help out by offering — in co-operation with the Labourers Technical Training Association — training courses for unskilled Jordanian youth who are newcomers into the labour market. "Most of them are either highschool dropouts or have had no specific training during their compulsory two-year army service," Dr Utoum said.

Questioned on the estimated number out of the 120,000 non-Jordanian workers (62,000 of which carry no work permits), who are to be refused working permits either this year or the following years, Dr Utoum said that it is yet too early to tell. "The answer will be more clear in three months time, after we receive a clear picture of the labour market situation, the exact percentage of Jordanian unemployment as well as the surplus we have among the Jordanian and non- Jordanian workers.

Apparently, these measures come about as preparations and unemployment prevention measures for the estimated 10,000 to 15,000 Jordanian expatriates who are expected to return to Jordan this summer in search for jobs.

This huge number is the result of the economic recession felt worldwide, especially at the Gulf states, which have led to a drop in the Jordanian labour demand. Besides this, Jordan is facing an increasing growth in its local labour force, which is increasing by 4 per cent annually with 25,000 new workers entering the job market every year. "We feel we have to do something to give first priority to Jordanians," Dr Utoum said.

He said that although the return of such a huge number of Jordanian expatriates will create a problem, it will not be a serious one. "Many of them will return with money saved up and will not accept the idea of working for salaries less than what they've been making abroad, especially in the Gulf states. They will prefer to open their own business," he said. He said that there are several sectors in the country, among which is industry, which have gaps expatriates can fill.

As for the non-Jordanian spouses and children of Jordanian citizens, they have nothing to worry about, for they will receive their work permits as usual.

Price: Jordan 150 fils — Saudi Arabia & Qatar 3 riyals — UAE 3 dirhams — Kuwait & Bahrain 250 fils — Syria & Lebanon 3 pounds

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NOTICE OF INVITATION TO TENDER FOR METER TEST STATION AND THE ERECTION OF HV AND LV NETWORKS

This notice for specific goods and services follows the general procurement notice for this Project which appeared in Development Forum Business Edition Number 79 dated 31st May, 1981.

The Jordanian Electric Power Co. Ltd. (JEPCO) invites bids for the supply of a Polyphase Meter Test Station and for the provision of erection services associated with rural electrification in Amman financed by the World Bank under Loan Agreement 1986 — JO.

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Tenders are to be prepared in English and must be completed, in duplicate. The 'Master' Tender must be received by JEPCO in Amman, Jordan not later than 1200 hours local time on Thursday 2nd August, 1984. The Tenders will be opened thereafter in the JEPCO offices on the closing date for the receipt of Tenders. The 'Duplicate' Copy of the Tender must be received by Kennedy and Donkin, Godalming, England by 1200 hours on the same day.

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Important Notice

The British Embassy in Amman

With effect from 10 June until the end of Ramadan, the visa section of the Embassy will be open for visa applications between 0920 hrs - 1220 hrs only, daily except Fridays and Saturdays.

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UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN LANGUAGES CENTRE ANNOUNCES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that courses in Modern Standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will be offered this summer from 11th of June till 8th of August. Classes meet in the morning 20 hours per week Saturday-Wednesday. Three levels of instruction will be available: Beginning, intermediate, and advanced. The course fee is JD 100.

Those interested in registering for the course, please call at the Language Centre, University of Jordan, between 9th and 13th of June.

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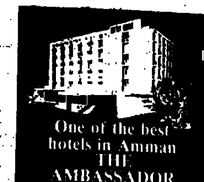

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3,000 Palestinians still held in Israeli jails

UN committee investigates prison conditions, life in occupied territories

THREE OF the 63 Palestinian prisoners released in the November 1983 exchange of prisoners between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Israeli authorities have been speaking about their experiences in the concentration camps. The following reports filed by two Star reporters after interviews with the ex-prisoners, in Amman reveal the agonies of Palestinians in Israeli jails.

By Amal Ghandour
Star Staff Writer

MAHMOUD ABD AL QADER had carried out several operations against Israeli targets and fought in the 1969 armed clash in Nablus, before he was finally arrested and committed to a concentration camp when he was only 15 years old. Now, after 14 years of imprisonment, he is a free 34 year old man.

On the 23 November 1983, 63 Palestinian prisoners were released by the Israeli authorities in an exchange of prisoners with the PLO. But an estimated 3000 Palestinians still remain in concentration camps carrying what another ex-prisoner Hamdallah Alul describes as "a true Palestinian experience representing one dimension of the Palestinian struggle."

From the first day when the prisoner is kept in 'X sections' to the time he is sent to his cell, after being beaten up for three days without a word uttered between him and the Israeli officer, Hamdallah remembers, begins the prisoner's struggle to remain committed to his Palestinian identity.

Torture techniques, explains Isam Al Shayyeb, who was arrested with Mahmoud, were aimed at distorting the prisoner's reality, humiliating his pride and denying his faith in the Palestinian movement. "Malnutrition, crowded cells and invariable beatings with the famous club," says Mahmoud, "begged to starve me emotionally and rob me of my will."

Yet life in the Asqalan Camp, to which Hamdallah Mahmoud and Isam belonged, despite Israeli efforts of suppression, was not wasted or lost. Although caught in a trap which sapped their energies and threatened their instinct for survival, the prisoners surrounded themselves with a wall or resistance.

In 1970, Asqalan's 500 prisoners went on a hunger strike. In a fit of frustration and anger, the prisoners lost all control and rebelled against their guards. Before any demand for better food or cell conditions, they insisted on getting pens and papers. Their demands were granted. Since then, the prisoners declared a preparation phase for new forms of struggle.

Hamdallah Alul: "The prisoners' experience represents one dimension of the Palestinian struggle"

Literacy committee

A literacy committee was created to eradicate illiteracy among prisoners within six months. A General Education Committee with branches of Philosophy, Literature and Science, was established to provide every facet of education for the prisoners. A special committee still examines new prisoners to determine their talents and knowledge, and then transfers them to the other educational cells.

In what is referred to as "political session", the General Education Committee photocopies political articles and distributes them to all the other cells. Directors of the cells record the views of the cell members and send them back to the committee to be edited and photocopied as a monthly political report.

Every Monday, the prisoners organise lectures, plays and courts to study various issues of significance. Gradually, Hamdallah says, "the prisoner began to realize his rights and insisted on them."

A security committee was even founded to reinject in the prisoner the sense of collective security and solidarity which the guard tried to suppress in him. Security questions and the latest Israeli Intelligence methods are studied and a bulletin is issued twice a month to all the prisoners. "We started an unbeatable network, which has enriched rather than killed our lives in Asqalan," Hamdallah recalls.

But the prisoners struggle never subsided or ceased. Hamdallah stresses that not one demand was fulfilled without sacrifice, reminding us of the second Asqalan hunger strike in 1976. Says he: "It is true that to a great extent the prisoners are living a life of semi self-rule, but after long suffering."

Hamdallah told his story to many audiences during a tour of the United States with two other colleagues. "I wanted to transmit the correct picture of life in Israeli concentration camps to many of our Arab brothers in the US, he added, the three prisoners were invited during their stay there by Arab-American Anti Discrimination Committee (ADC), the National Arab American Association (NAAA). They also contacted by Holy Land Fund, which deals with media events.

The United Nations has also sent a fact finding mission to the area recently to investigate Israeli prison conditions and life in the occupied territories. Mahmoud and Isam gave their statements to the three-member committee headed by the permanent representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Mr Nissanka Wijewardene. Isam hopes that "the investigation will make an impact in the UN, and influence change in outside public opinion".

Mahmoud, Hamdallah and Isam might be free men, but a touch of bitter sadness escapes from their eyes betraying what their words managed to hide.

'Reduction in financial assistance will affect the economy' says Arar

AMMAN (Star) — "The law on political parties is suspended, and there is no intention on the part of the government to lift the ban on political parties," said Mr Suleiman Arar, Minister of the Interior.

Speaking in an interview with the Ad-Dustour newspaper, Mr Arar said that Jordan's past harsh experiences with political parties sponsored by outside regimes, "which our political fabrics could not absorb or sustain, prevents it from committing the same mistake again." He added, however, that the chance in the future is for those parties "which are rooted in this country's culture and traditions, loyal to its constitution in letter and spirit and committed to its leadership, which has proved its farsightedness and experience."

Mr Arar said Jordan does not have any political prisoners. However there are detainees being questioned and other violators of the law. He asserted that Jordan is one of the few Arab countries "which has a fast efficient process in dealing with such matters." "Detaining probably no more than ten individuals is not consequential, and sending to court those who breached the law is not out of the ordinary," he said.

Families of the detainees, Mr Arar said, are always informed about their relatives in detention. He added that "those who are innocent are released, while those who have strong evidence against them, are sent to court and assigned a lawyer or more upon request."

Mr. Suleiman Arar

On the reduction of Kuwaiti financial assistance to Jordan, Mr Arar explained that "any decrease in Arab financial aid to Jordan, will seriously affect Jordan's economic strength, because most of the development schemes are based on such support."

Commenting on the military draft of West Bankers, the interior minister stated that they are exempted from the military draft so long as they remain residents of the West Bank.

Ex-prisoners describe ordeal in concentration camp

Psychological, physical torture aimed at eradicating Palestinian identity

By Fadia Faqir
Special to The Star

HAVE YOU ever spent a whole night looking at the sky, the stars and the moon, wondering if they were real or a creation of your tired imagination? If you have, you can easily identify the feelings of the ex-prisoners of Israeli concentration camps who, after their release on the 23 November last year, spent their first night near the Lebanese border under the open sky.

Hamdallah Alul, Mahmoud Al-Qader and Isam Al-Shayyeb, ex-prisoners of Asqalan camp, agree that the Israeli enemy employs all possible psychological, physical and cultural methods to eradicate the Palestinian identity.

The clash of will between the prisoner and the jailer takes different shapes. For example, the psychological method is used in order to subdue prisoners. The interrogator tries to convince the prisoner that he is alone, helpless and fighting a losing battle. He then tries to shake his beliefs, conventions even the validity of his senses.

Deprivation

Hamdallah, who spent 11 years in prison, thinks that the interrogation is a real test of one's beliefs "if one has a true faith in his cause, nation and country, he will never break down," he says. The prisoner is deprived of his essential needs. He is given a small quantity of food and he is not allowed to have enough sleep. Communication with his inmates is not permitted, and, in certain cases the prisoner is kept for about one year in a closed cell. Some prisoners cannot survive this harsh experience, consequently, they lose their minds.

In Asqalan Camp alone, there were four mad prisoners who were kept together intentionally, with other sane inmates to "create a very inconvenient atmosphere, and to provide other prisoners with a living example of what could easily happen to them," Hamdallah said.

During the interrogation period prior to condemnation, prisoners are exposed to various methods of physical torture such as cudgeling, stinging with cigarette butts, tearing of nails and electric shocks.

Mahmoud, who spent 14 years in jail, described his feelings during those black hours by saying, "I surpassed death and was eager to become a martyr in order to elevate the value of the Palestinian fighter."

Living examples

Two other living examples of this inhuman treatment of prisoners are Ibrahim Al-Kharouf and Mahammad Garar. Ibrahim was shot three times. The Israeli authorities ignored the Geneva Convention which states in part "that all the wounded should be taken to hospital immediately." Instead, Ibrahim was taken to the interrogation room and tormented severely. Ibrahim lost his memory and became paralyzed.

Mahammad Garar was captured in 1968. He was suffering from various injuries from two bullets, one in his head and another in his lung. Although he needed urgent surgery, he was left for 14 years with no medical care whatsoever. He went into a coma as a result of continuous bleeding. Last year he was released through the help of the Red Cross.

In 1976, Asqalan's prisoners embarked on another hunger strike. On this occasion, the prisoners were force-fed on the ninth day. The guards took the prisoners one after the other i[illegible] a room, tied their hands asked them to break their s[illegible] If the prisoner refused th[illegible] serted a rubber tube in hi[illegible] through to his stomach a[illegible] him 70 gms of milk. Th[illegible] pulled back the tube hars[illegible] maging the oesophagus [illegible] process.

Mahmoud Abdel Qader: "I was eager to become a martyr in order to elevate the value of the Palestinian fighter"

Continued on page [illegible]

Ex-prisoners describe their ordeal

Continued from page 3

Hamdallah went through this horrible experience. He says, "the tube that they used to insert in our noses was tarnished with blood. However, what the strikers really cared about was to keep a smiling face in front of their other colleagues."

Abdul Azziz Shaheen 'Abu Ali' who was in prison for 15 years; 12 of which in total seclusion, participated in the strike. He used to issue a daily circular entitled "We, Who are we?" In this circular he tried to remind every striker of the most physically weak prisoners.

After breaking the strike on 45th day, the head of the prison Haim Levy and other prison staff came to watch the way the strikers ate. Food was distributed in a very organized manner, and quietly, the prisoners ate their first meal in 45 days.

The death of every prisoner was attributed to natural causes. The poor diet offered to prisoners, lack of fresh air and crowded rooms etc. caused a decline in the health of the prisoners. Mahmoud recalls when the prisoners underwent a comprehensive medical test. About 240 prisoners were suffering from various diseases such as ulcer, cyst, heart troubles and cancer. And over 80 per cent of them needed urgent operations.

Women prisoners

The Arab woman in general is conservative and when captured by the Israelis, she undergoes a very harsh interrogation, in which various methods are used to affect her values as a woman. Some Palestinian women were arrested during their pregnancy. When they give birth, the child gets the same treatment as his mother. The newly-born baby is allowed to be fed three times a day and when it becomes six months old, it is given to the prisoner's family.

Isam Al-Shayyeh: "Because we were deprived of so many things, were ultra-sensitive to every aspect of life"

Once, a picture of a child got to the prison. It was a treasure for the prisoners, and it succeeded in putting some joy in their worried hearts. Isam remembers very well how his young brothers and sons used to cry when pulled by guards at the end of their visits. He says "because we were deprived of so many things, we were ultra-sensitive to every aspect of life."

Although it was not easy for the three Asqalan prisoners to part with their prison inmates, their release evoked various emotions in them. Mahmoud feels triumphant because, he was given a death sentence. "Here am I full of hope, looking at the open sky. Life in prison is so suffocating. Even drinking water and feeling thirsty do not take place simultaneously," he says.

Hamdallah described the day they were released saying: "the scene of the sky meant a newness restrained life for us. Similar to a blind man who discovers suddenly that he can see, we experienced with joy even the slightest manifestations of life."

Effective March 2

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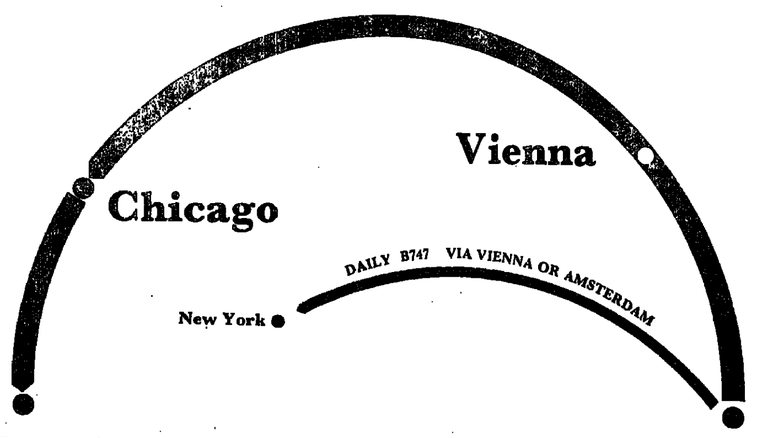

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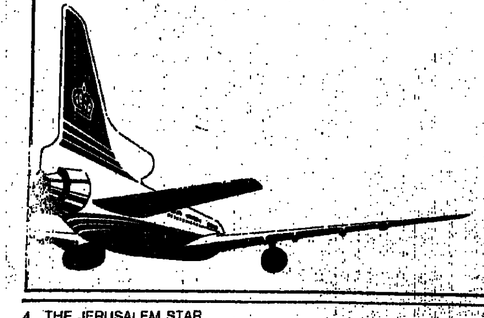


	Days	Monday and Friday
AMMAN	Dep	11.00
VIENNA	Arr	14.00
	Dep	15.00
CHICAGO	Arr	17.45
	Dep	18.45
LOS ANGELES	Arr	21.45

Alia: The Royal Jordanian Airline

alia

Federation expresses solidarity with Lebanon

By Sana' Alul
Special to The Star

AMMAN — The National Federation of Jordanian Women (NFJW) Monday held a rally to express its solidarity with the people of Lebanon in their struggles. Among the large gathering were the Minister of Information Mrs Laila Sharaf and the wife of the Lebanese ambassador in Amman.

A statement issued at the end of the rally urged all women federations in the Arab world to work alongside their governments in their efforts to achieve a pull-out of all foreign forces from Lebanon. It also called for financial and moral support for Lebanon in order to revive all facets of life in that country.

The statement lauded the struggle of Arab women, particularly, Palestinian women fighters in Israeli jails and the Iraqi woman who is fighting alongside the man on the land to repulse Iranian attacks.

The NFJW sent a cable to the president of the Lebanese Women League Amira Nasreddine Yahya reaffirming its support for Lebanese unity and freedom.

The President of the NFJW Mrs Haifa Al-Bashir and Mrs Siham Al-Kassem a member of the Federation's executive committee addressed the gathering.

Brazilian ambassador

In an interview with The Star last week (page 25) the Brazilian ambassador was asked: "when his government is going to give the Palestine Liberation Organization a separate diplomatic status, and not within the Arab League?" ...He now wishes to clarify his answer to that question and says: "I think we are going to wait for the decision that will arise after the meeting of the Palestine National Council, then we will be in a better position to take another decision."

UNRWA's self-supporting programme succeeds

Programme extends to other refugee camps outside Jordan

TWO YEARS ago the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) launched a 'self-supporting programme' to help handicapped refugees and other refugees facing hardships in Jordan. The programme has become so successful that it is now expanding to UNRWA's other fields of operation in Lebanon, Syria, Gaza and the West Bank. **ERSILIA MORENO** examine the achievements of the programme since its inception. Following is the first instalment of her report.

THE BASIC concept behind the programme is for UNRWA to grant the 'seed money' necessary to help the carefully selected individual set up his own business. It is hoped that the business will flourish to the point where the refugee can leave the 'special hardship category'.

And when the individual earns between JD 40 and JD 62, all welfare assistance is withdrawn. JD 62 may seem very little to support a family of 12, but as the Amman Area Welfare Director pointed out, "All refugees are poor and we are assisting the poorest among them."

There are 1,731, families living in and outside the refugee camps who fall under the 'special hardship category'. Any head of a family who is a widow, spinster, orphan, student; is temporarily or permanently disabled, mentally handicapped or serving compulsory military service is eligible to receive assistance for his or her family.

This assistance includes rations of 20 kg. flour, 2 kg. sugar, 2 kg. rice, 1 1/2 kg. oil, 2 kg. skim milk powder, 1 1/2 kg. canned corned beef, 1 kg. burghol, 880 gms. tomato paste every 2 months per person. Blankets, new clothing and token cash payments of JD 3 per person per year, are given.

Family breadwinners

These people are unable to find employment, but there still remains a strong desire within them to become breadwinners for their families. If they can prove that they have a skill or experience in a line of business the local welfare workers consider them for the 'self-supporting programme'. Depending on the situation the refugee will approach the worker or vice-versa. After a thorough review of each case an international staff member will choose who is eligible and who is not.

Currently, there are 12 projects underway and an additional five projects that are successfully self-supporting in all of the Jordan area. Among the small businesses are a cleaning materials kiosk, a small restaurant, a watch repair shop, a knitting and dressmaking operation and a sheep and goats project.

Cripple watch repairer

The story of Hasan Muhasin of the Baqa'a refugee camp is one of the numerous successes of the self-supporting programme. Hasan Muhasin fled from his home town of Manshiet Al-Arraq in the West Bank during the 1967 war. He was only 13 years old at the time and for the past 17 years he has been living at the camp. To add to his difficulties, he was afflicted with polio in both legs when he was only four months and so had been paralyzed since childhood.

Realising that his physical disability and limited sixth grade education would hinder his chances of getting a better job, Hasan approached a watchmaker, one Khaled Nusser, and asked if he could learn the trade. Hasan spent two years as Nasser's apprentice learning to become a watch repairer. At the time he was given daily wage of JD 1.

Hasan's predicament put him and his family under the special hardship category, and his skill in watch repairing made him eligible for the 'self-supporting programme.' When he approached the UNRWA authorities to help him establish a small watch repair shop they were more than willing to assist him. In May last year, he opened the shop with a grant of JD 658. He says that people are getting to know his shop and predicts that this summer business will improve. Aside from repairing all types of timepieces (though not electrical ones) he also rents out strings of outdoor lights for weddings and other parties in the camp.

Hasan Muhasin stands in front of his UNRWA supported watch repair shop in the Baqa'a Camp

When a customer comes in Hasan goes through the traditional ritual of haggling that shopkeepers all over the Jordan are famous for. Generally, he settles on a labour fee of JD 1 or 1 1/2 plus the cost of the parts. He said his charges depend on the time involved in repairing the watch and the customer's financial status as well.

Even though, Hasan sees a marked improvement in his financial situation, the JD 40 he earns monthly is still not enough to subsist on. Apart from the JD 7 monthly rent he pays for the shop, he pays JD 15 for a one room apartment for his family of six. The remaining money he gives to his wife Atiya and leaves her to decide how it should be spent. (Generally it is spent on food and used clothing and shoes for their five small children.) When he earns JD 69 (the shop rent included) UNRWA will cut off all assistance.

Hasan would like to teach his children the trade so that if they don't succeed in any other field in the future they'll have something to fall back on. He hopes to do very brisk business in the future. When asked what his future aspiration was, he smiled and said, "I want to go back home to Palestine."

To be continued

PM welcomes idea of an Islamic Consultative Committee

By Khaled Nuseibeh
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Islamic Cultural Centre has organized a one-day seminar at the University of Jordan on the topic, 'Bridging the gap between religious scholars, the ruler and the society'

Contributing to the seminar, the Prime Minister Mr. Ahmad 'Obeidat said it is the responsibility of everyone to help bridge this gap, adding this responsibility does not fall on the ruler alone. Mr. 'Obeidat said he welcomes the idea of setting up an Islamic consultative committee with whose members he would regularly meet.

Another participant, Mr. Kamel El-Sherif, former minister of Islamic Affairs noted that the manifestation of this gap is the existence of a state of suspicion, lack of confidence and competition for the material adding, "If an external enemy or internal intrigue is faced in such conditions explosions occur". Mr. El-Sherif said corruption in the society is caused by the absence of a single ideology to be adhered to by the community. And he blamed this on the influence of western colonialism. He added that in a society where there is a unifying ideology, the interplay of divergent opinions and interpretations push the community forward. "In the absence of a unified criterion divergent opinions lead to destruction," he said.

The Mufti of the Kingdom Mr Isseddin El-Khatib criticised the religious scholar who lives in isolation from society and thus, doesn't contribute to its progress. He said that the ruler's responsibility lies in protecting the dignity of the individual, assuring the means for honest living and protecting the life of each individual. Mr El-Khatib explained that the messages of the ruler and the religious scholar are complimentary. The best guarantee for the relationship between them to thrive is the Islamic Ideology, he added. He said the role of the religious scholar is to offer advice to the ruler and it is the latter's responsibility to accept such advice.

Mr Ibrahim Zaid Al Kilani, a professor at the University of Jordan said that the gap between religious scholars, rulers and society was inherited from the colonial period. "Western cultural penetration and the imposition of the western way of life, thought and culture, has led to dislocations in our society," he noted. The seminar was attended by a number of religious scholars, university professors and members of the public.

Jordanians to teach in Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Star) — Approximately 2,300 Jordanian teachers will be hired to fill vacant teaching positions in Saudi Arabia during the next academic year. These teachers, who are either degree holders or diplomates mostly in the sciences, will be hired on the basis of personal contract agreements signed with the Saudi Employment Affairs Office at the Saudi Embassy in Amman.

Besides hiring teachers on individual basis, Saudi Arabia and several Arab states will in future employ Jordanian teachers through the Ministry of Education's 'teachers-on-loan programme.'

Teachers hired by the ministry can apply for this programme if they meet the required conditions, and after one year of teaching abroad, they may either extend their contracts for another year, with five years of teaching abroad as the limit. On their return they can go back to their former jobs, with their rights for promotion, retirement and pension guaranteed.

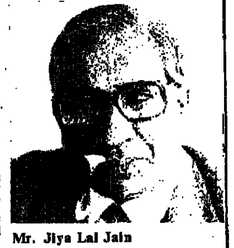
The ministry of education has already defined the teaching staff needs of the Arab world and distributed application forms for interested teachers to complete. What remains to be done is for the ministry to process the applications and give its approval. The ministry will also have to give its approval to those teachers hired through the Saudi Embassy and other embassies.

Jordan praised for its high level of education

By Sana' Alul
Special to The Star

AMMAN — "We like to develop peace by catching the students at the grass root level, so as to build defences of peace in the minds of students", said Mr. Jiya Lal Jain, secretary general at the Arab Regional Office of the United Schools International (USI) in an interview with The Star.

Mr. Jain who was in Amman on a four-day visit, held discussions with officials of the Ministry of Education on the possibilities of Jordan becoming a member of the organization. He commended Jordan for its high level of education. During his stay, Mr. Jain visited the Comprehensive Girls School, the Community College and the Saladdin School. The USI is an international, non-governmental organization founded in 1961 in New Delhi, India. Its objectives are: To promote education about the various aspects of the United Nations in schools everywhere, to familiarize students with the activities of UN and its functions, and to encourage the exchange of views among students in different countries. USI membership in 33 countries and it enjoys a consultation status with UNESCO, FAO and UNICEF.



Mr. Jiya Lal Jain

To promote and spread information on the UN, USI has been conducting a world-wide UN information test. In all, 17,525 students took part in this test by the end of last year.

Insurance companies face new law

Cash deposits distributed among banks

AMMAN (Star) — Insurance companies in Jordan are to invest 60 per cent of a fixed ratio of their cash deposits in credit banks, according to a recent companies control law by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

Out of this cash deposit, 20 per cent is to be deposited in the Housing Bank, 20 per cent in the Cities and Villages Development Bank and another 20 per cent in the Industrial Development Bank. The remaining 40 per cent can be invested in any other bank or financial company in the name of insurance companies and to the order of the minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

The new law, which was considered valid at the beginning of this month, applies to 25 per cent of insurance companies' cash deposits estimated at JD 9.5 million. The remaining 75 per cent will be invested in shares, lending bonds in public Jordanian companies and bearers bonds issued by the government.

Dr Jawad Al-Anani: Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism

The law obligates all Jordanian insurance companies to submit a cash deposit of JD 100,000 for life insurance, JD 100,000 for insurance on savings and money formation, JD 75,000 for any other kind of insurances like marine, fire and accident insurances.

Foreign insurance companies are forced to pay JD 150,000 for life insurance, 150,000 for insurance on savings and money formation, JD 100,000 for each marine, fire and accident insurances.

The Star has also learned that the government has newly issued a law concerning raising the companies' capitals to at least JD 1 million. This could be achieved in the case of small companies by merging together but this law is currently under adjustment.

The government seeks by this law to reduce the number of the 37 insurance companies to reduce competition and control companies reserves.

Import of cigarettes prevents smuggling

By Hiyam Asakrieh
Star Staff writer

AMMAN — The government's decision to import foreign cigarettes to Jordan is expected to be effective by September this year, said Mr. Mohammad Al-Saqaf, Undersecretary of Ministry of Supply to The Star, in an interview this week.

The decision, he explained, has been taken after a study made by the Customs Department and other concerned parties to put an end to smuggling. According to him the procedures needed to prevent smuggling would be expensive apart from valuable efforts which could be spared for many other essential purposes.

Arrangements to import limited quantities of foreign cigarettes are said to have made with care protecting the local production. A government department has been entrusted with the job in order to ensure that all revenues received from sale of foreign cigarettes will go to the Farmer Fund; to control thoroughly the quantity imported and sold; and to deal directly with the foreign suppliers who would offer moderate prices and thereby the department could price the foreign cigarettes lower than the smuggled and higher than local cigarettes.

"The quantity allowed will be 12 million packets per year (about one million per month), the same quantity imported through smuggling, and the packets will have a marking that they are imported through the Ministry of Supply. Also high customs duties will be imposed on the cigarettes. The brand is not specified but Rothman, Kent, and Marlboro are the most favourable foreign cigarettes in Jordan. However, if these companies do not offer us good prices we will search for other producers.," said the Undersecretary. "We are studying several offers from different companies and will choose the most attractable offers," he added.

As for distribution of the cigarettes, he said "No decision has been taken yet, it could be through wholesale dealers or direct to retail shops, but any how we are particular that these cigarettes are available to those people who are deeply attached to foreign brands and usually get them through smuggling."

Qadhafi misfires ... in the aftermath of the London shooting has the Libyan revolution run riot?

Also in South magazine this month:

- ☐ **Lebanon:** Will the Karami cabinet be Lebanon's last hope?
- ☐ **Iran:** Banking goes Islamic — and aims to aid development by favouring the small borrower
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Price instability

By Mamdouh El-Ghaly

A STATE of instability prevailed over the market during the last two weeks regarding price levels and daily handling volume. In the meantime some big deals occurred in the banks and insurance sectors resulting in the rise of some share prices. Despite the retreating trend in the market, it is expected to see fluctuation continue for some time.

During this week more than 340,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 965,000 divided among 900,000 contracts; a decrease of 20.3 per cent compared to last week. The daily handling average came to about JD 190,000 with a deviation of 58.6 per cent or 11.7 per cent of the total around this average; indicating the fluctuation of handling during the week.

The shares of 63 companies were handled from which 22 companies gained including:- The Paper and Cardboard Factories closing at JD 1.720 up from JD 1.540; Al-Arab Insurance Company at JD 1.450 up from JD 1.350; Al-Yarmouk Insurance at JD 1.340 up from JD 1.260; the Housing Bank at JD 1.950 up from JD 1.890.

Twenty four companies lost including:- The Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company closing at JD 12.500 down from JD 16.000; The General Mining Company at JD 1.370 down from JD 1.570; The Jordanian Wood Manufacturing and Production Company at JD 0.800 down from JD 0.860; RIFCO at JD 30.000 down from JD 33.000. Seventeen companies had no change in their share prices.

The Star price index at closing time came to 275.800; a decrease of 1.2 points compared to last week or 0.4 per cent decrease.

In the over-the-counter market, more than 238,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 107,000

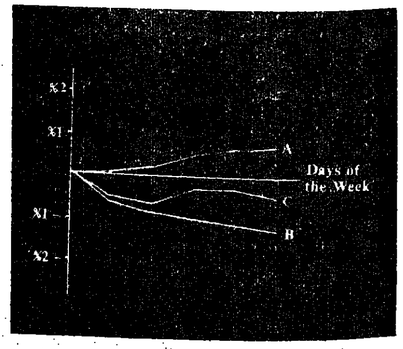
Trading in the regular market was distributed among the sectors according to the following percentages:

Sector	Market share	Last week's share
Banks	69%	59.2%
Industry	18.5%	24.7%
Services	1.9%	1.8%
Insurance	10.6%	14.3%

Prominent firms whose shares were traded, by sector:

Banks (out of 17 traded)	Share of sector	Share of market
1. Arab Bank	64.9%	44.8%
2. Jordan Bank	12.4%	8.5%
3. National Bank	6.8%	4.7%
Industrials (out of 30 traded)		
1. Jordanian Glass Factories	15.6%	2.9%
2. South Cement Company	15.5%	2.9%
3. Jordanian Cement Factories	13.4%	2.5%
4. National Steel Factories	10.7%	2%
5. Phosphate Mines	5.6%	1.9%
Services (out of 6 traded)		
1. International Arab Hotels	52.7%	1%
Insurance (out of 10 traded)		
1. Arab Insurance	60.6%	6.4%

The weekly record



A. Companies showing an increase in stock prices

B. Companies with a price decrease

C. The mean record figure

Countdown for Bahrain

World money crunch threaten the offshore businesses on the Gulf island

By Robert Poullot
Star Economy Analyst

THE DAYS of Bahrain, the largest Middle East financial centre with over 100 local and foreign institutions, are numbered unless the community there adjust fast enough to brand new money market conditions in Saudi Arabia and around the world.

With some $63 billion of assets spread over five continents with the bulk exposed to the Middle East and Western Asia risks, Bahrain has probably reached a peak in its development. This is the most startling conclusion I made after a tour of most dealing rooms in Saudi Arabia over the last two weeks. And short of a new consensus within the Gulf co-operation council countries over the terms and goals of integrated financial markets by the end of this decade, Bahrain will gradually lose grip on what could have become a creative stage for Middle East recycling.

Sure enough, fast evolving and increasingly more sophisticated market players in Saudi Arabia are taking over activities which used to be exclusively carried out by Bahrain Offshore Banking Units (OBU). Thanks to the largest (at the brand new head office of the National Commercial Bank in Jeddah) and the most active (at Saudi institutions are on their way to become the market makers in Riyal.

Take for instance the Arab National Bank, 40 per cent owned by the Arab Bank of Jordan, which probably enjoys the access to the cheapest funds around the world (the bank pays hardly more than 2 per cent for its deposits spread over more than 70 branches in the kingdom). Less than 6 months ago, Arab National didn't have a centralised dealing room where it could bid and offer its excess liquidities to other banks in Bahrain and around the world. Money market activities were carried out independently by some 7 or 8 major branches with very little supervision and coordination under a still embryonic head office management. The result was that one branch ignored the needs of the others and could be spinning as much as SR 50 to SR 70 million to Offshore Banking Units (OBU) in Bahrain to make sure that the money got remunerated. However, most of the transactions were made with little consideration for optimum market yields. As soon as an outside bank in Bahrain took delivery of those funds at often low rates, Arab National branches were happy to get rid of their liquidities. But the Bahrain OBU, having purchased the funds for a month at low rate, could turn around and lend the same money back into the kingdom to a foreign contractor in need of riyals at a much higher rate.

Since January, Arab National has centralised all dealing activities into a single room at its head office on Shara Sittin in Riyadh. The move not only contributed to cut cost in communications and pool the bank's best resources but enabled to stage a far more aggressive strategy. Instead of moving large chunks of funds, Arab National now limits each transaction to SR 10 to SR 20 million and peddles around 50 to 10 banks to find the best yield on the market. In other words, Bahraini OBU's have now to bid against competition for their riyal funds on the international market.

This is only a small case showing how sophisticated Saudi institutions have become with long experienced treasurers and dealers repatriated from all corners of the world while, at the same time, the dealing room staff in Bahrain is being downgraded to cut cost.

SAMA's new regulation

At least 25 per cent of Saudi Arabia's widely defined money supply (M3 or money in circulation plus demand, time and saving accounts) now rests outside the kingdom according to last fall's figures, mostly concentrated in Bahrain. This is because the Saudi Kingdom is still awash with liquid funds as a result of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency's very conservative ratios (only 65 per cent of deposits can be recycled into loans) and very little paper instruments are available to absorb the difference (the 35 per cent leftover deposits).

Last February, the Agency (better known as SAMA) started to issue weekly Ban Security Deposit Accounts (BSDA), a sort of treasury bill of 91 days which allows Saudi banks to lodge some of their excess liquidities (out of the 35 per cent non-recyclable deposits) in the kingdom. Some SR 400 million were offered each week but only about half to 60 per cent were taken up by banks due to two major factors: The yield offered by SAMA was 5/8 to 3/4 per cent below what Bahraini banks were offering and such deposits, although accountable as liquidities under the Agency's definition, could not be rediscounted with SAMA. In other words, if banks required liquidities during the three month period of the BSDA, they could not sell back their security deposits to SAMA overnight in exchange for cash.

By mid-March, however, things started to change. First, SAMA authorised the transfer of BSDAs among banks for liquidity purposes, though the process was often time consuming since it could take up to 8 days for some banks to find buyers on the Saudi inter-bank market. But more important was the significant improvement of the yields on BSDAs in relation to what Bahrain offered. Today, those BSDAs are quoted at about 1/4 per cent below the Bahrain interbank offered rate (BIBOR) and the rate of purchases has probably climbed to 70 or even 80 per cent of weekly offerings. Instead of putting most of their funds in Bahrain, many bankers prefer to forgo some of their spread to get greater security, especially under the current war environment of the Gulf.

Indeed, several Saudi banks have enquired in Bahrain to see whether the parant bank of some OBUs would be willing to guarantee their deposits with their affiliate. But unless the OBU is a full branch of a London, Paris, Tokyo or New York — based bank, no such guarantee can be issued. In case Iranian forces would invade Bahrain and freeze all assets, a large part of Saudi deposits would be locked-in Bahrain with little prospects of early legal settlement.

In early fall, several bankers expect SAMA to refine the negotiability features of the BSDA paper by offering to repurchase the lot or part of. In fact, SAMA would use a bank's cumulative purchases as a sort of collateral to advance money overnight to an in situation in need of urgent cash. Such improvement will allow a much more aggressive liquidity management and will increase further the popularity of BSDAs to the detriment of Bahrain. Moreover, a wide range of new maturities are now under preparation and might reach the market by the end of the year. Maturities will range from one month (which a lot of bankers would have preferred from the start) up to one year and possibly even two. This, by itself, could really hit Bahrain seriously by curtailing already dwindling funds in riyals.

World competition

Another major factor which explains the tightening supply of riyals to Bahrain is the recent opening of Riyadh Bank's branch in London. Until recently, the British Bank of the Middle East (wholly owned by the Hong Kong and Shangai group) and the Saudi International Bank (with heavy SAMA participation) were the biggest buyers of riyals in London. But the Riyadh Bank is now biting into BBME's market share and early next year, the Saudi American Bank's (SAMBA) representative office in London (just opened a month ago) will be converted into a full branch with a large size dealing room. SAMBA is also eyeing at Switzerland and Singapore for other branches.

Those developments in the city will only serve to cut in Bahrain's traditional source of funds in riyals and many treasurers believe that within a year or two, Bahrain will be fully restricted to dollar operations.

That's when the most serious problem would hit Bahrain. As several senior treasurers point out, Bahrain's most critical challenge is not really Saudi Arabia and the current recessionnary environment in the Gulf but really what is going on on the world debt market. Bahrain is really more a booking centre for international loans than a recycling stage for the Gulf area. Because there is no income tax in Bahrain nor any reserve requirement on the offshore banking units (which otherwise would increase their cost of funds the same way as in Jordan where a share of all deposits must be placed interest-free with the Central Bank for safety purposes), international banks register their loans on their Bahraini affiliate books even though the real transaction might originate from New York, London or Tokyo.

Well, as major banks gradually retreat from the syndicated loans to Third World nations and find themselves undercapitalised in regards to the amount of deposits they can accept (this is particularly true for British banks) and loans they can make, the international market is gradually shrinking which affects the volume of loans booked in Bahrain. Put differently, what really threatens Bahrain is the current worldwide financial crunch against which offshore banking units simply can't do anything.

Contracts Tenders

New opportunities

- SUPPLY OF furniture for officers' dormitories. Details available from the Royal Jordanian Airforce/Airport engineering upon payment of JD 40. Closing date 18 June.
- ASPHALTING ROADS and constructing pavements: details available from Bilia municipality upon payment of JD 15. Closing date 11 June.
- SUPPLY OF 250 mercury lighting units: details available from Tareq municipality upon payment of JD 10.
- SUPPLY OF 100 drums of transformer oils: details available from the Jordan Electricity Authority upon payment of JD 10. Closing date 9 July.
- MINING AND conversion of 100,000 tonnes of limestone into gypsum and transportation to the Cement factory at Fuheis. Details available from the General Mining Company upon payment of JD 10. Closing date 12 June.

Announcement Invitation to Borehole Drilling Bids

Water Authority of Jordan (W.A.J.) invites all specialised local and foreign contractors to participate in the bidding for drilling of production wells and equiping them with pumps in Sahl Essawan area East of Aqaba as specified in the Tender Documents.

Interested Contractors may obtain the tender documents at the Headquarters of W.A.J. in Jabal El-Hussein, Tender Department, for JD. 100 each.

Tender documents for two (2) Contracts, as follows:

100/84 Five (5) Boreholes equiped with pumps
101/84 Five (5) Boreholes equiped with pumps.

Both in Sahl Essawan Area.

Closing date for submission will be Noon of the 16th of June 1984.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DEADLINE EXTENSION TENDERS 24, 25/84 SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS FIFTH EDUCATION PROJECTS.

Following the announcement published in the period between 5/5 and 10/5/1984 in local newspapers for SABHA, DHULAIL Centralized Schools.
(3rd Group of the Fifth Education Project).

The Government Tenders Directorate announces the extension of deadlines as follows:

1. Last date to purchase contract documents from project Directorate/ Ministry of Education is June 21, 1984.

2. Last date for submitting tenders is 11 a.m. July 8, 1984 at the Government Tenders Directorate/ Ministry of Public Works.

Chairman, Central Tendering Committee
Director, Govt. Tenders Directorate,

Kuwait makes informal bid for Stinger missiles

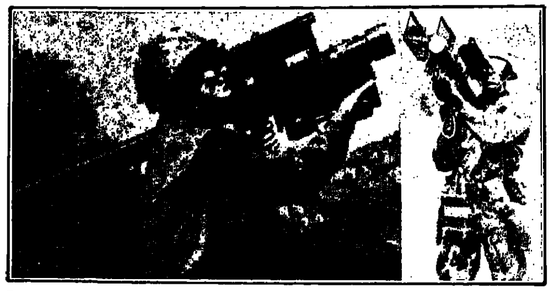
WASHINGTON (Star) — A Defence Department official said last week that the United States is reviewing an informal request by the Kuwaiti government on the availability and delivery of US Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

Pentagon spokesman Michael Burch told a press briefing that, at present, the US government does not intend to sell additional Stingers to states of the Persian Gulf region.

He told questioners that he is "not saying we are ruling it (a sale to Kuwait) out. No decision has been made." He said that Kuwait's defence requirements are being reviewed. Earlier in the week, the United States sold 200 Stinger launchers and 400 missiles to Saudi Arabia, which Burch said are adequate to meet the Saudi defensive needs at this time.

He pointed out that US embassies and military attaches in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states — which include Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — are constantly reviewing the military needs of those nations, but the spokesman said that he was not aware of any new or emergency military requests from Co-operation Council members. He was not aware of any other Stinger requests from Council states.

Noting that Kuwait and other countries of the Gulf Council are sovereign states able to buy arms anywhere they want, Burch said that some of their defence needs, "because of the equipment and training they already have, may be better met by other suppliers." It is possible, for example, Burch pointed out, "that a state may be shopping for weapons to meet its needs. A state may be asking several different countries about price and availability," *the spokesman said.*



Smart Stinger missile — strengthens the fire power of Gulf states

Burch said that within the last few days the Kuwaiti government has "informally approached our government asking about the availability and delivery of Stingers. That does not mean that it is a formal request and that the sale will go through. It may not even be their decision in the end."

He said the United States is reviewing the Kuwaiti needs. "We don't want to ship or supply them something that they can't use and we would also have to look into assurances — just like we do with other countries we deal with — that the equipment would be safeguarded."

"We've got to wait until the review is *finished and see what their real desires* are," Burch stressed.

When questioned about the possible transfer by the Saudis of US Stinger missiles to other members of the Gulf Co-operation Council, Burch said "absolutely not." It cannot be done without the permission of the United States, he stressed. Permission to transfer these missiles to other states of the Gulf Council, he continued, "is not contemplated."

And when asked if US tanker planes would refuel Saudi fighter planes that might be guarding the airspace of other nations of the gulf region, Burch answered, "I believe we would." However, he noted that the Saudi government would have to work out an agreement with other countries to enter their airspace. Burch also said that he believed that US tanker aircraft practised refueling Saudi fighter planes.

Meanwhile the US press has varying opinions on the shipment of Stinger missiles to the Gulf. The Chicago Tribune reported that President Reagan's emergency shipment of portable Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to a frightened Saudi Arabia is the least the United States can do to fend off any dangerous interruption of vital oil supplies in the escalating Iraq-Iran war.

Despite the minimal nature of the missile handout, it is a logical and necessary step along a stairway to heavier commitment by the United States and its allies should the air threat from Iran or Iraq escalate beyond the ability of the Saudis and their Arab neighbours alone to control.

The defence system provided by the Stingers must be tested before the West is *compelled to commit its own forces in the* imperative of protecting the crucial "jugular" waterway.

"On balance, it seems clear that selling these short-range defensive weapons to the Saudis poses only one real danger, that they will somehow reinforce an illusion that the lid can be put back on the caldron of the Persian Gulf by force. The best hope of silencing the Gulf's guns and grounding its missiles lies in a unified decision by industrial nations to stop buying oil from either Iran or Iraq, leaving both too financially weak to keep tearing one another apart. A shipment of Stingers should not make the industrial world lose sight of that," commented the Los Angeles Times.

Israel insists on direct negotiations for withdrawal

Israeli soldiers in Lebanon — reluctant to withdraw

BEIRUT (AP) — Thousands of demonstrators marched through the streets of mostly Muslim West Beirut last week protesting Israel's continued occupation of Southern Lebanon, a day after Prime Minister Rashid Karami said he had ordered Israel's liaison office east of Beirut closed.

"Dealing with Israel is a sin," read banners waved by the demonstrators. "Why are the Arabs deaf to what is happening in the South," chanted the marchers, who included politicians, women and children. The marchers also pledged support for guerrilla attacks against Israel's occupation army in the Southern Lebanon. One said, "uniting in the struggle against Israel is the first step toward reuniting Lebanon.

The march marked the beginning of the week of South Lebanon, called for by Muslim clergymen and politicians to commemorate the second anniversary of the 6 June 1982, Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Karami announced that he had ordered the Israeli liaison office in the Christian eastern suburb of Dbaye closed. But Israel's co-ordinator for Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, was quoted as telling the Israeli cabinet session in Jerusalem that there had been no official request for shutting *the office.*

Furthermore, Lebanon's chief factional leaders, grouped in a national coalition cabinet under Karami, appeared split over the issue.

While sources close to Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri and Sunni Muslim ex-Prime Minister Salim El-Hoss said "the two cabinet members welcomed Karami's move," Maronite Catholic former President Camille Chamoun said "the decision was premature."

Chamoun, who is serving in Karami's government as Finance Minister, said in an interview with the right-wing Christian voice of Lebanon radio station that the government should have first prepared for negotiations on security arrangements with Israel, then dealt with the office.

"What is important is the withdrawal (of Israel), not the closure of the office," he said, adding that "the failure to reach security arrangements with Israel would mean the continuation of the occupation."

Uri Lubrani, Israel's co-ordinator for Lebanon, briefed Israel's cabinet on Sunday and was quoted by a cabinet spokesman as saying "no official request had been received to shut down the office which opened after Israel's invasion in June 1982."

"Lebanon has a greater interest in keeping the Liaison office open... especially since Israel has pointed out that the issue of South Lebanon can only be solved by direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon," Lubrani was quoted by spokesman Michael Nir as telling the cabinet.

A senior official who spoke on condition he not be identified added that "Israel has stated it would not be willing to negotiate with Lebanon through any third party, including the United States or united Nations". He said "Israel was insisting on direct talks with President Amin Gemayel's government for any arrangements in South Lebanon.

Asked whether Israel would keep its troops in South Lebanon until such negotiations were held, the official said, "that is the government's policy."

Egypt participates in New Orleans world's fair

NEW ORLEANS (Star) — "Message from the Nile to the Mississippi" is the title of a pamphlet distributed to the public at the Egyptian pavilion of the Louisiana World Exposition. The "message" is that great rivers are the cradles of great civilizations.

That is the message of the entire pavilion, sponsored by the Egyptian embassy in Washington and several Egyptian government agencies. It is presented in an array of artifacts, maps, films and models that carry the essence of Egypt's 7,000-year history to the much newer civilization in America.

A large model of the lands bordering the Nile provides reference for the pavilion's displays. Sixty-five models adorn the pavilion; most are likenesses of ancient Egyptian monarch's. A restaurant offers Egyptian cuisine and a gift shop sells Egyptian handiworks such as pottery and fabrics. Modern exports from Egypt, including Western clothing styles and furniture, and Egyptian wines provide marked contrast to the ancient displays.

Because New Orleans, like Egyptian cities, is a place dominated by a river, the theme of the Fair is "The World of Rivers: Fresh Water as a Source of Life." "It is an event that will focus world attention on this old Louisiana city," said World's Fair information officer Jeanne Nathan.

About 12 million people are expected to visit the Fair which started on 12 May and will continue until 11 November. "Unlike most modern world's fairs that have stressed so many of the 'Brave New World' aspects of commerce and technology," said Nathan, "This Expo will be different."

Although it will offer the usual monuments to futurism and national pride, the New Orleans Expo has a "a flair for the unexpected." The first taste of the Exposition's flavor is at the entrance — huge mermaids adorning both sides of the gateway arch — with 12-foot strands of hair. They were built by the same local concerns that create Mardi Gras floats.

"This collaborative process... has been an important part of the entire scope," said Nathan. The waterway theme of the Expo inspired much creativity among Fair sponsors and water is omni-present there. "We wanted to have major pieces with water in all the public spaces," said Fair architect Allen Eskew. The amphitheatre uses a river backdrop. Facing it are international pavilions and floating exhibits. Overhead, a gondola system carries suspended cable cars across.

The "wonderwall" has 42 fountains. At its bend is a watergarden with 14 water toys that can douse participants. Even the watergarden's entrance has water pouring over it and visitors must carry umbrellas upon entry or get soaked. Inside, the games include target practice with giant water pistols and a water-activated juke-box.

In a more serious vein, three monumental water sculptures from an international water sculpture competition are spread across the site.

UN Security Council hits Iran's Gulf attacks

UNITED NATIONS (Star) — The Security Council last Friday condemned Iran's recent attacks on commercial ships in the Gulf en route to and from the ports of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and called upon all states to respect the right of free navigation.

The resolution, brought to the Council by Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — as the Gulf Co-operation Council, passed by a vote of 13 to 0 with Nicaragua and Zimbabwe abstaining. Zimbabwe felt the resolution was not even-handed enough regarding the attacks on shipping by Iraq, and Nicaragua saw the Gulf states economic and political relations with Iraq as third country interference.

The resolution specifically referred to the Iranian attacks only in the preamble which cites the Gulf states' complaint; but the wording clearly directed its condemnation and demand that "such attacks *cease forthwith*" at the attacks on ships en route to and from neutral states. The resolution also calls on all states to respect the territorial integrity of neutral states, to exercise the utmost restraint and to refrain from any act which may lead to a further escalation and widening of the conflict. It stipulates that if such attacks on neutral shipping should occur again the council should meet to "consider effective measures that are commensurate with the gravity of the situation in order to ensure the freedom of navigation in the area" — a reference that sets the stage for sanctions.

The Council has met many times since the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980 and has passed four resolutions calling for a cease-fire, issued five Security Council presidential statements and sought the good offices of the Secretary-General and his special envoys — all to no avail. The difference this time was that the Council was called upon to address a single aspect of the serious Gulf situation — the threat to commercial shipping.

Both Iran and Iraq have bombed commercial shipping in the Gulf and reports from the region have set the number as high as 70 commercial ships hit. However, Iraq's attacks have been in Iranian territorial waters, especially in the vicinity of Kharg Island, which is a unilaterally declared war zone. It was the Iranian attacks on the three ships in Saudi and Kuwaiti waters that brought the issue to the Council as the fear intensified that states in the region and elsewhere that have a vital interest in keeping the oil shipping safe in the Gulf would be drawn into the conflict. The Gulf states received many commendations during the debate for exercising restraint and bringing the matter to the Council to try to keep the hostilities from escalating.

UN Security Council meets — trying to defuse the situation

The resolution finally voted on came after days of difficult negotiations during which the wording was modified to give a more even-handed approach and stress the need to protect neutral shipping and freedom of navigation for all.

Iran boycotted the entire Council session, which started 25 May, saying that the Council is only acting in the interest of the Arab states which Iran sees as aiding Iraq's war efforts. At a press conference after the vote Iranian ambassador Said Rajaie-Khorassani said that the Gulf cannot be a war zone in any way, and if Iraq continues attacking shipping in the area Iran "will take appropriate measures." If Iraq wants to use the Gulf against us, he said, "then the peace and security of the Gulf will be violated against everybody."

Iran will not permit "the Persian Gulf to be used against us. The Persian Gulf cannot be a war zone in any way. It must be free and open for all," Rajaie-Khorassani said.

While the Security Council was meeting to try to defuse the situation and keep others from becoming embroiled in the conflict, the meeting itself became an occasion for outside parties to become involved. The Soviet Union, speaking before the vote, warned the United States not to get involved in the region.

Soviet Ambassador Oleg Troyanovsky said that the United States was planning to openly interfere in the region in spite of the experience of the US Marines in Lebanon.

The US Ambassador Jose Sorzano responded that the United States regretted that "the Soviet Union has apparently returned to the attitudes of the cold war to such an extent that they not merely walk out of disarmament talks, but now foist their tired rhetoric upon this council irrespective of the serious issue before us. We had hoped in the mistaken expectation that our restraint would have encouraged them not to distract the Council from the issues before it. But now the Soviet delegate has alluded to the death of our valiant Marines who were in Lebanon on a mission of peace to help that beleaguered and long-suffering nation emerge from years of violent strife."

Earlier in the debate on 30 May, Sorzano urged the council to take "meaningful" and "straightforward" action to prevent the spread of the Gulf war.

The war poses "an increasing theat to the stability of the region and even to the global economic system. The acceleration of the attacks against shipping in the Gulf, particularly against shipping going into or out of the ports of non-belligerant states, threatens not only those states, but indirectly poses a potential threat to world price levels and inflation just at the moment when world economic recovery and a healthy economic expansion is beginning to get under way," he said.

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Mercenaries sail the Gulf

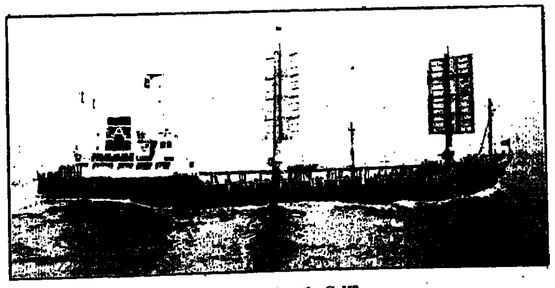
DUBAI (Agencies) — The Gulf war is attracting increasing numbers of mercenary seafarers willing to replace regular crews at double wages and sail ships into the war zone. Nicknamed the 'kamikaze sailors', the majority are Philipino, although there are some British and Germans. And it emerges that several have little idea of how to cope in an emergency.

One Philipino captain of a ship chartered to Iran said he had understood that the Iraqi aircraft's Exocet missiles were heat-seeking. So in the war zone he ordered the crew to douse the funnel and the engine room bulk-heads with sea water in an attempt to cool them down.

Captain Eduardo Perez of the bulk carrier Al Malik said he and his crew of 14 were recruited in Manila by the Hong Kong-based Gulf East shipping company to take the 27,000-ton ship from the United Arab Emirates port of Khor Fakkan on the Indian Ocean to Bandar Khomeini.

The recruitment of mercenaries by Gulf East shipping is believed to follow the deaths of two crew members on another of the company's vessels and the Pakistani crew's subsequent refusal to enter Iranian waters.

Captain Perez said: "I heard in Manila that the company was looking for war zone crews. I was offered a six-months contract at double my basic wage of $1,600 a month, but the Philipino government insisted that all the crew and their wives signed papers accepting the risks." "The war zone starts at Kalat island at latitude 28 degrees 30 minutes, but it was only really dangerous from Kharg Island," said Perez in Dubai where the ship is now undergoing routine repairs. "You could see the Iraqi planes coming around and the missiles dropping from them. But we were not hit. The soldiers on the machine-guns started firing but they didn't hit anything either. "It seems that more ships are hit in the Shatt Al Arab waterway than around Kharg. We were attacked on the approach to Bandar Khomeini and the crew went forward to take cover," said Perez. "On the way back, again passing Kharg Island, the Iranian pilot also took cover. He left only me and the helmsman on the bridge and said 'you will have to pilot your own ship now'."



Saudi oil tanker: Needs mercenaries to sail in the Gulf?

While more mercenaries are offering their services, many shipping companies prefer not to employ the 'kamikaze sailors' and there are reports in Dubai of British officers on foreign vessels being sacked for refusing to sail into the northern Gulf.

In Dubai, where the ship repair yards are doing brisk business, the seamen who regularly run the Gulf gauntlet say that approximately 50 per cent of the missiles which hit ships do not explode.

The captain of an Iranian-chartered tanker, a Briton who would not be named, told of travelling in convoy when he heard a big bang — then watched the ship abreast burst into flames. "Four hours later the pilot came on board and told me I had a hole through both sides of the ship just four feet above the water line."

Some missiles do explode on first impact. Lying alongside the Al Malik in Jebel Ali port is the 54,000-ton Panamanian-registered tanker Rover Star with a massive hole in her stern.

Softer side of a general

By Patrick Seale

DAMASCUS (ONS) — General Mustafa Tlas of Syria is not quite in the usual mould of ministers of defence. His military competence has been attested by no less a judge than his Soviet counterpart, Marshal Ustinov, who had described him as one of the finest strategists in the Middle East.

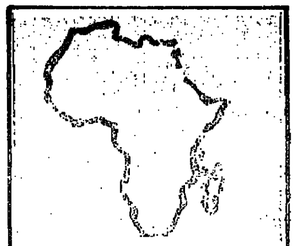
But this seasoned soldier has a softer side. He is an unashamed admirer of the British Princess of Wales. He boasts of having the world's largest collection of books about the Princess. Photographs of Princess Diana — as fashion queen, socialite, fond mother, royal-on-duty, English beauty — adorn the walls of the General's 16,000-volume private library.

They gaze down on symbols of the General's profession of arms, displayed at the foot of the bookshelves: Fine English sporting rifles, Israeli weapons captured on the battlefield and the watch of an Israeli pilot downed in the 1973 war, a solid gold Sterling submachine-gun, jewelled daggers, the gifts of Arabian kings and princes.

But General Tlas's dearest wish, he says, is to dine with the Princess. "If Mrs Thatcher were to invite me, I wouldn't go. But if it were Lady Diana, I'd travel to England on a lame donkey."

For the desired occasion he has composed a long poem in Arabic, which he is hoping to have rendered into English verse. Were the Princess of Wales to visit Syria, he has ready for her "the finest Arab steeds" — apparently unaware of her lack of enthusiasm for horses.

Apart from his interest in at least one of the British Royal Family, Tlas is a man of letters, a publisher, and a keen nature photographer. His latest publication is a handsome, richly illustrated, velvet-bound two-volume work on 'The Roses of Damascus'.



A rendezvous with Botha

SOUTH AFRICAN Prime Minister Botha's visit to London early this week raised several eyebrows in Britain. The visit, the first in 23 years by a leader of the apartheid regime, (the last visit was made by late Prime Minister Verwoerd in 1961) would under normal circumstances have been considered a very important one. But this was not the case with Mr. Botha.

There are several reasons for the acrimony towards the visit; apartheid and its concomitants notwithstanding. Mrs. Thatcher's government was severely criticised for allowing the visit. These critics argued that receiving Botha on British soil is an acquiescence of apartheid and for that matter an approval of the racist policies in South Africa.

Nevertheless, Mrs. Thatcher stuck to her guns and allowed the visit to go on. The critics, undaunted, made their last stand on the eve of the visit by distributing some one million anti-apartheid propaganda leaflets and posters at London's railway stations and public places. They also held demonstrations at Heathrow airport on the arrival of Mr. Botha.

But, looking at the criticisms levelled against the visit, one sees some wisdom in Mrs. Thatcher's adamancy to meet with the apartheid leader. The South African regime had been left to do whatever it wanted for the past 23 years. And people have been paying lip service to the problems of the blacks in that country with no concrete actions taken to help them. This has been so because no one wanted to talk with the authorities there. The apparent isolation of South Africa has not had any effect on the country and its government, because it has underground contacts with those countries who claim to be boycotting it.

If anything, this is the time to talk with the apartheid regime. Mr. Botha himself began a fence-mending exercise early this year with his neighbours (signing security agreements with Mozambique and Angola). These are signs of a change of attitude. The same attitude was shown in the recent abortive talks on Namibia's independence in Lusaka, Zambia. There isn't anything more to do by the apartheid regime to convince the world that it is prepared to talk peace.

People should not forget the fact that the only effective way to vent opposition to apartheid is to meet and talk with its perpetrators. It is true that had there been more of such visits and personal contacts in the past, something could have been achieved for the suffering black population in South Africa. Mrs. Thatcher took the opportunity to tell Mr. Botha her views on apartheid when she met face to face with him. There could have been no better chance or means of communicating these views to Mr. Botha.

Let another world leader follow up with Mrs. Thatcher's initiative. For, this is the time to talk; the time to strike while the iron is hot and the time to hit the nail right in the head. The shouting of slogans, formation of anti-apartheid groups etc, will not bring about any significant change in the apartheid policies. On the other hand personal contacts will enable the opponents of apartheid to put their cards face up when they meet the apartheid authorities.

Costa Rica:

President Monge appeals to Europe

By Paul Ellman

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA — President Luis Alberto Monge of Costa Rica has started an [illegible] European tour late last month [illegible] 'moral solidarity' and, with a little luck, some financial help for his tiny country, which tried to set an example to its neighbours in 1948 by abolishing its army and establishing an elected system of government.

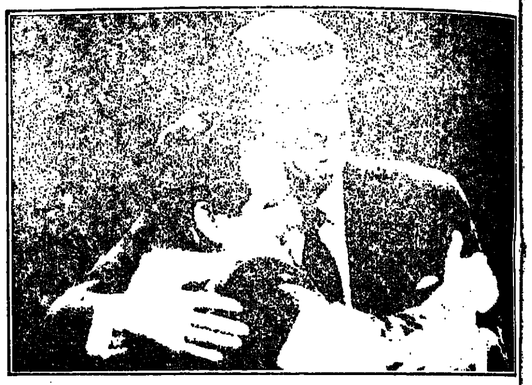
He believes that Western Europe has been badly misled about Central America and is not doing enough to support Costa Rica as the region's only fully-fledged democracy. Monge's tour comes against the background of simmering tension along Costa Rica's northern border with Sandinista-ruled Nicaragua and thinly-disguised pressure from the United States to dilute the position of neutrality it has tried to adopt towards the region's conflicts

In an interview two weeks ago Monge complained about a 'compaign of disinformation' in Western Europe against his country, which tried to cast it in the role of an aggressor against Nicaragua, which can field an army of more than 100,000 men against the 8,000 members of the Costa Rican security forces.

Costa Ricans are particularly angry at the failure of European social democratic parties, such as the British Labour Party, to show more support, particularly since Monge's ruling National Liberation Party is a full member of the Socialist International. The Sandinistas have failed to win more than observer status in this organisation. "Perhaps they didn't think it was necessary to show solidarity because Costa Rica is not the object of aggression by the US, Monge said.

An example of the attitude which concerns Costa Rica was the 'fact- finding' mission sent by the Labour Party to Central America at the end of last year. The two junior MPs who made the trip said its purpose was to show 'solidarity' with Nicaragua. The mission steered clear of Costa Rica altogether.

"It is there that the decisive battle for democracy is being fought in Central America," Monge said, pointing to the fact that Costa Rica's democratic system has had to deal not only with bellicose threats from Nicaragua but also with an economic crisis which has seen incomes cut by a third since 1980.



Costa Rican President Monge with Reagan — a warm embrace

The President said he was baffled by the attitude of Nicaragua towards Costa Rica, which openly allowed the Sandinistas to use its territory as a base for the insurrection which toppled the dictatorship headed by General Anastasio Somoza in July, 1979. "It cannot be explained. We suppose are an inconvenience to them. Because of ideological differences they want to denigrate the only democracy in Central America," he added.

An example of the sabre-rattling which has made Costa Ricans nervous was provided last week by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Sandinista governing junta. Two days after most believed that the latest crisis between the two countries, caused by clashes along their 200-mile frontier, had been defused with the help of the Contadora group of Latin American nations, Ortega denounced a Costa Rican request to the US for military equipment as a 'total provocation.'

Costa Rica has requested from the US a $7.6 million military aid package in an effort to beef up its civil and rural guard forces, which as recently as 1982 used as many as 32 different weapons, most of them so obsolete that ammunition was no longer manufactured for them.

Monge criticised as 'unfortunate' the gleeful publicity given by the Reagan Administration to the request as evidence of the danger posed by the Sandinistas. He added that the new equipment would be just as important to curbing the activities of the anti-Sandinista guerrillas operating near the border as to defending the frontier itself.

In any case, Costa Rica knows that it could not hope to beat back a Sandinista attack and relies instead on the knowledge that an invasion would bring retaliation by the US and Latin American nations, which could mean an end to the government in Nicaragua.

(Observer News Service)

West Germany:

Germans choose Biedenkopf for EEC

BONN (Agencies) — The next President of the European Community Commission — if all goes according to West German plans — will be Kurt Biedenkopf, former deputy chairman of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats. The Germans consider that it is their turn to fill the job.

Senior party officials confirm that Kohl has been canvassing for Biedenkopf and suggests he has obtained the support of other Christian Democratic parties in Europe, as well as that of French President Mitterrand.

The Bonn Foreign office also confirms that West Germany will be nominating its own candidate once the term of Gaston Thorn expires, although there is still some doubt as to whether this will take place on schedule at the end of the year.

A number of Community governments are known to favour extending Thorn's term for a year, on the grounds that with Spain and Portugal due to join at the beginning of 1986, the entire Commission will have to be restructured, and it would make sense to bring in the new president then.

However, others are not impressed with the performance of the present Commission — including its president — and say a new team is needed to deal with the problems which enlargement will bring.

Biedenkopf's only rival at present is the Danish Finance Minister, the Liberal Henning Christophersen, but both diplomatic and government circles in Bonn say he has no chance. As a person he is acceptable, they say, but the Commission cannot have a president from a country which is — to say the least — ambiguous in its attitudes towards the Community.

Biedenkopf, 54, has no such problems and is considered to be both politically and intellectually suited to the job. As a Christian Democrat he is favoured by other conservative governments, while coming as he does from the extreme liberal wing of the party, he is also acceptable to left or liberal governments.

He is still a nuisance to Kohl, however, and shifting him to Brussels — away from domestic politics for four years — would solve many problems.

Mystery blast devastates villagers

MANCHESTER (Agencies) — Surgeons have been operating throughout the past week on victims of the mysterious underground explosion which destroyed Abbeystead water pumping station in Lancashire, England on 23 May. Nine were killed and 35 were injured, many with critical burns and fractures, during what they had expected to be a quiet evening visit.

Scientists are examining the rubble and water samples to pin down the cause, which appears to have been a build-up of methane gas. However such gas would be unusual in what is simply a fresh water supply system, not connected with sewage. The implications are considerable for water engineers everywhere.

The station pumps water for domestic use by underground pipeline between the River Lune and the River Wyre. Staff were demonstrating to visitors from the nearby village of St Michael's on Wyre, between Lancaster and Preston, how it could cope with a flood when the devastating blast occurred.

Normally the station is unmanned, its operations controlled by a computer four miles away. The villagers arrived for the demonstration at seven in the evening and the explosion came 20 minutes later.

There was a 'flash fire,' survivors recall, and concrete roof beams, each weighing 2.5 tons, were flung up into the air before crashing down on to the visitors and water authority officials. The beams smashed through the metal and concrete floor of the chamber, in which most of the victims were standing, and thrust them into 20-feet deep water below.

Although the explosion is thought to have been caused by the ignition of a pocket of methane gas, or possibly some other form of gas, water officials, firemen and police still do not know what caused the ignition or how the gas got there.

Ian Ritchie, a divisional manager for the water authority, explained: "We would not normally check for the presence of inflammable gases in a river abstraction. This is river water from the Lune, which is supporting salmon and sea trout and so on, and we normally expect a high quality water."

Soviet Union:

Missiles: Moscow piles on pressure

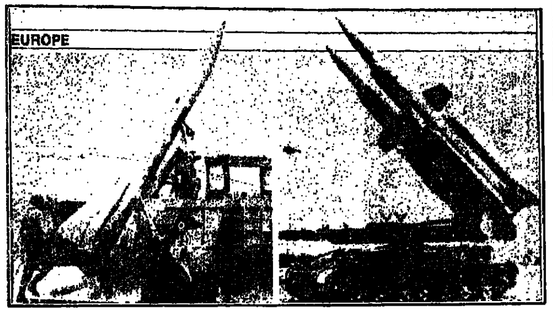
MOSCOW (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany was asked at his Moscow press conference two weeks ago whether his and other visits by European leaders to Russia were worthwhile. "Of course", he said, "yes." A Soviet-European dialogue couldn't replace an American-Soviet dialogue but that didn't mean it wasn't important. And then the West German said something that was perhaps more revealing than he meant. You shouldn't think, he added, that "our motive is fear."

Genscher has come and gone without budging the Russians an inch on the key question of medium-range missiles in Europe. He heard the Russians say over and over again that they wouldn't go back to the Geneva talks until the Americans removed the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles from Europe. It is likely that Britain's Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe and President Mitterrand will hear exactly the same when they come visiting later in the summer.

The truth is that Soviet intransigence is making some Europeans nervous — if not actually afraid — and of course it is meant to do just this. So these European visits are extremely worthwhile from the Russian point of view. They allow Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko to slip the honoured guest between the vice of Soviet disapproval and loyalty to the Western alliance and give it an uncomfortable turn or two.

Thus Gromyko enlarged upon West Germany's part in the deployment of the new missiles, which he called "a black page in the chronicle of the eighties." And he performed his usual faultless karate chop on the notion that Moscow might be persuaded back to the Geneva talks.

None of this was good news for Genscher to take home. True, in the Soviet-German relations in general there is much that is ambiguous. The Europeans are being lectured about their sins. But they are also prized as trading partners. Soviet diplomacy has zeroed in on the unease that President Reagan arouses in many Europeans, including some in governing circles. And the Russians keep pressing on this unease in the hope that Europe's mutterings of discomfort will be heard in Washington.



US missiles in Europe — Soviet missiles aimed at Europe

Although the Russians may have pulled the Europeans a little in their direction (for example there is a readiness to consider the Soviet idea of a non-aggression treaty in a perhaps different form) they haven't got anywhere with their chief demand: the removal of missiles as a precondition for talks. Every official Western visitor tells them this is impossible.

It's likely the Russians know this. But posing an impossible condition serves several purposes. It gives a maximum, adrenalin-generating target for the Western peace movement (in which all loyal Communist parties have been urged to take part). It makes negotiations with the Americans impossible and Moscow does not want to talk to Ronald Reagan until after the US elections at least. And it leaves the chance of offering a more realistic bargain — like a freeze on deployments — as a compromise that might be accepted.

A new study on Soviet medium-range nuclear forces, written by an American scholar Stephen Meyer for the International Institute for Strategic Studies, suggests why Moscow might find a freeze interesting. Meyer calculates that the final Soviet offer — to reduce its European SS20 force to 140 — would have left the Soviet military with almost the same number of deliverable warheads as it had in the previous decade ('deliverability' takes into account reliability and other factors).

In other words, the Soviet generals were ready to reduce their medium-range missile force to the point where they could still cover all those NATO targets it judged should be vulnerable to their medium-range missiles. Below that number they would not go. Informed Soviet sources were hinting as much last year. The West underestimated Soviet stubbornness.

Soviet interest in a freeze can be deduced from another of Meyer's calculations. The new NATO missiles are mobile, which greatly complicates destroying them. Meyer suggests it would take at least two SS20s (each has three warheads) to destroy one NATO missile once the latter has begun moving on its land transporter. Thus the present Soviet force of 240 SS20s facing Europe would be used up against just 120 NATO missiles, leaving several hundred other targets still to be covered.

Obviously the Soviet generals would prefer the NATO missiles to be removed. But, since that isn't likely, they have an interest in limiting their deployment.

Canada:

Ethnic group press their views

By Nicholas Hirst

TORONTO (ONS) — 'Ethnic' Canadians are emerging as a political force in the race to succeed Pierre Trudeau as leader of the ruling Liberal party. Some traditional party activists complain that the constituency organisations, which pick delegates for this month's leadership convention, are being swamped.

The usual image of Canada is of two founding-nations, the French in Quebec and the British elsewhere. But changes caused by immigration over the past 30 years have radically altered this. Waves of immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe, Asia, South America and the Caribbean now account for nearly a third of Canada's 25 million population. They now outnumber the French Canadians by more than a million.

At a Liberal meeting in a quiet Toronto suburb, to pick convention delegates, the proceedings were taken over by 700 Italian-speakers and turban--wearing Sikhs. In a central Toronto constituency, Portuguese Canadians demanded an interpreter. Yet another meeting was dominated by Greek Canadians.

The influx is causing considerable resentment with some old party members. They feel that the 'ethnic' Canadians are being used as lobby-fodder, being herded into meetings with little knowledge of the issues and their subscriptions having been paid en bloc, to further the ambitions of community leaders.

Certainly the ethnic vote is going to be increasingly important. Studies by Multifax, a Montreal-based market research organisation, show that the communities are keeping their traditions and language into the second and third generations. It estimates that 36 per cent of Toronto's population has neither English nor French as its mother-tongue.

Grenada:

United States plans to create a crack force

By Nick Worrall

GRENADA (ONS) — American military officials in Grenada are planning to train and equip a crack 90-man paramilitary special service unit to take over security duties on the island. It would allow withdrawal of the 450-strong US Caribbean Peace Force based here since last October's invasion.

The unit is also intended to dovetail into the six-nation regional security system now under US training to give the Eastern Caribbean a capability for mobile intervention in case of internal subversion.

So far the special service units under training in St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis have all been recruited from the islands' post-British colonial police forces. Only Barbados has regular army units to contribute to the regional force.

But British officials, engaged in a three-year programme to retrain the rundown Royal Grenada Police Force, have lately been worried that America might now want to bypass the principle of using trained policemen and recruit directly into the special unit in their haste to fill a potential security vacuum.

It is not known how long Jamaica and other Caribbean states can maintain an expensive security presence on Grenada nor for how much longer President Reagan wishes his own military to remain directly involved.

In St. George's two weeks ago US officials denied any intention to bypass the police system and stressed: "If you don't start with a properly-motivated policemen, it's a mistake to give him a gun." But there's no doubt the Americans have been irritated by slow progress in rebuilding the Grenada police, most of whose duties in recent years were usurped by Maurice Bishop's revolutionary army.

Despite Britain police aid totalling over $400,000 and the stationing of a resident adviser, the programme has been slow because of lack of training facilities and senior officers, difficulties in recruiting suitable personnel and the exacting standards required by the British system.

Yet the Grenada's interim government is apparently convinced that this is the standard they prefer. After a two-day visit recently the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office overseas police adviser, Bob Bryan, said: "I think they are right to continue to reflect the British view of policing. It's part of their heritage."

For possibly this reason Grenada has yet to give the Americans the final go-ahead to begin training, despite finding a suitable site on the tiny neighbouring island of Carriacou. Most of their senior advisory staff are headquartered at the barbed wire-enclosed Grenada Beach hotel for which the US military have just renewed their lease until March 1985.

On the other East Caribbean islands, the US have provided three fast patrol boats and tough bush training, plus uniforms, M16 rifles and jeeps for the special units, each of which is divided into two platoons of 40 men.

They are nominally under control of individual police commissioners. But in theory one platoon from each unit, plus an army contingent from Barbados, could be called into action at the request of the leader of a member state. Such action would be co-ordinated by the overall commander, Brigadier Rudyard Lewis.

Last October's events in Grenada, when Maurice Bishop and many others were murdered and his four and a half year revolution destroyed by internal conflicts, gave new life to the regional plan. It had been discussed for years by leaders like Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams, who had watched with unease the growing Cuban and Soviet influence.

The US Congress voted about $1.5 million for regional security but has yet to approve funds to complete the plan. "Had it not been for Maurice Bishop, we'd still be suckering around for the money," said a senior US officer.

The rapid growth of US influence since October has worried critics of the invasion as well as members of opposition parties in the Eastern Caribbean, who see growing militarism among hitherto relatively unarmed states.

While the senior American officers' response to this is: "So what?", a more considered line came from a US diplomat: "We feel that there's a consensus among these islands on security and the protection of their democratic institutions to make them support these efforts."

Mystic cloud alarmed pilot

LONDON (Agencies) — A mysterious cloud which quadrupled in size in 30 seconds caused an airline captain to issue a mayday call and make an emergency deviation over the Pacific Ocean. The strange phenomenon occurred on 9 April and so far has defied any rational explanation by American scientists. It resembled the top half of a ball and rose to 60,000 feet, causing considerable alarm to the crew.

The captain of the aircraft, a Japan airlines Boeing 747, flying from Tokyo to Alaska, observed the strange sight about 220 miles east of the main Japanese island of Hanshu and was given permission to make an emergency deviation to avoid it.

Four other aircraft in the area confirmed the sighting. The US federal aviation administration had warned of possible radiation in the area — such notices are usually issued when underground nuclear tests are thought likely. But American military surveillance of the area reported no nuclear or seismic activity in the area at the time, according to an article in the recent issue of Jane's Defence Weekly.

Weather satellites did not detect the cloud. When the five aircraft reached Alaska they were washed down and the washings tested for radioactivity but none was found. The US Aeronautics and Space administration has been doing computer calculations on the cloud but the phenomenon still remains a mystery.

'The Arab lobby' in America

THE 12th annual convention of the National Association of Arab Americans was held earlier this month in the American capital. The activities of this convention bring to focus the dismal status of Arabs in the United States.

Like their compatriots in the Arab World, Arabs in America are in a desperate state of disunity and confusion. The NAAA is but one of several groups working in the US to voice the concerns of Arabs both inside and outside the United States. But, unfortunately, confusion and aimlessness are the only things in common between all of these groups.

Because it is extremely important for Arabs in the United States to be organized, we should shed some light on the causes of their confusion and disunity. Lack of co-ordination is one of the basic causes for the weakness of Arab influence in the United States.

I will never forget what happened during the Tenth convention of the NAAA which was also held in Washington. I personally was an eyewitness to the innerfighting between several Arab groups which was translated in the form of verbal abuses, and, consequently, fist fights. Arabs in the audience started abusing on Arab speaker who was, supposedly, representing, pan-Arab views.

I am not saying, however, that the disagreement between Arab groups in the US is always violent or unruly. But I think it is fair to say that no common objectives have been marked out between all of these groups. Each group is working independently for its causes and often directing its activities towards the same audience.

The United Holy Land Fund, for instance, collects money for social development plans in Palestine, whereas Project Loving Care is interested only in the plight of Palestinian orphans. And another group has lately sprung up in California with the sole purpose of welcoming Arab athlets in the upcoming Olympic games in Los Angeles.

We might be expecting too much out of the Arab community in the United States, for how could the Arabs there be organized when they are, in fact, a microcosm of the even more desperate situation of Arabs in their own homelands?

But we expect the Arab communities abroad to present a better image because they have the choice of not succumbing to the ideological conflicts and disagreements that play havoc with the political and social atmosphere in the Arab world.

We also expect Arabs in the United States to present a unified front because they witness the model of the highly organized and extremely influential Jewish lobby in America. Jews in the United States also belong to different groups that often have conflicting programmes and various short-term policies.

They should also try to work out common targets for Arab communities in the US. Their job should be much easier to achieve than the Zionist lobby. For the Arab will at least be working for a just cause and will be trying to alleviate, not inflict, pain and suffering.

NAAA becomes more outspoken

WASHINGTON — Over the past decade, Americans of Arab ancestry have become increasingly more aggressive in trying to lobby for greater US support for the Arab cause. As an ethnic political power, they still lag well behind the American Jewish community.

But at the same time, Arab Americans have made some inroads. In the process, of course, they have had both considerable direct and indirect support from other groups which have a huge stake in promoting the Arabs — the big business community, the major banks, the oil companies, the giant construction firms with contracts in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Gulf, the major arms manufacturers anxious to sell their products in the Arab world, and the professional "Arabists" in the foreign policy establishment.

The National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), which was actually established on the AIPAC model, has become much more outspoken in recent years in trying to do two things: explain the Arab side of the story as effectively as possible, while at the same time make Israel's case as weak as possible. One of the NAAA's major areas of concentration has been Israel's enormous dependence on US economic and military assistance.

For years, they have sought to weaken Congressional and public support for these large-scale US aid programmes to Israel. Their efforts, based on the annual roll-calls in both the House and Senate, have not been very successful. Israel, by far, is still the most popular US foreign aid recipient. But they continue to try, and now, they have come up with a new twist.

"Is it fair to America?" the NAAA asks in a sixty-second paid radio commercial heard lately on radio stations. "At a time when there is less for all Americans, when unemployment affects millions, when we are suffering the effects of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, is it fair for Congress to give $2.6 billion to Israel? All together, over the past ten years, Israel has obtained some 22 billion dollars in gifts and low-interest loans and at this rate will get 44 billion US tax dollars in the next ten years. This is not fair. This is outrageous."

That rather blunt style of political lobbying, in itself, would be newsworthy. But the NAAA has singled out one specific Congressman who has been among Israel's best and most influential friends: Democratic Representative Clarence Long of

Mr. James Zogby

Maryland, the powerful chairman of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Foreign Operations.

It is that panel which must pass all foreign aid legislation. And it is that panel, under Long's active leadership, which has made certain that Israel's aid package — as originally proposed by the Administration — is not only maintained but actually increased every year.

Long, for his part, has not made a major issue out of his being targeted by the NAAA, although it clearly upset him. He is determined to continue in his support for Israel, irrespective of the opposition.

"So far," he said in an interview, "I've ignored them."

He said he would continue this low profile until "I felt that it got to the point where I think they are a real embarrassment." That has not yet occurred.

In any case, Long, like so many others in Congress, and the Administration, sees US assistance as vital to America's own security. He is not about to back away from that stance.

The Arabs, he said, are the ones who have been "extricating nearly a trillion dollars from the US taxpayers and working people by raising the price of gasoline through the oil embargo and using that money to buy weapons that threaten Israel and also menace each other."

Long believes he was targeted because "They are also trying to intimidate the Congress. Most of this effort is going out in Washington. I think they are trying to send a message to other Congressmen. 'Look, if you vote for aid to Israel, this is the kind of thing that is going to happen to you.' So this is not just an attack on me."

The NAAA, while increasingly active in recent years, has also faced some severe problems from within the Arab American community. For one thing, another group has emerged — the American Lebanese League — which is by no means hostile towards Israel. That group is supportive of the Gemayel Government in Beirut. Their leadership has pointed out that most of the estimated three million Americans of Arab ancestry — as opposed to six million Jews — are really Lebanese Christians rather than Arabs.

On the other side of the NAAA are the more radical Arab Americans who have been even more hostile towards Israel. Among them is the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, headed by James Zogby and former Democratic Senator James Abourezk of South Dakota. Their major effort has been to wash as much of Israel's dirty linen as possible in public.

The Jewish Advocate

American perspectives on Iran-Iraq war

By Abdulsalam Y. Massaruch
Star Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The major American media outlets have been dedicating a lot of space and time to the Gulf war, and together with their public affairs reports which are shown in the US on Sundays, the three Television networks, ABC, CBS, and NBC, invited some experts to discuss the issue of the war and its possible impact on the US and the Western allies. One of the most outstanding analysis about the war was offered Sunday, May 27 by veteran diplomat George Ball, former undersecretary of state in the days of President Kennedy.

According to Mr. Ball the United States should use diplomatic clout through establishing what he termed "an oil users' association." Instead of merely consulting with our European allies, then acting unilaterally — as we seem on the verge of doing — "we should try to combine our clout with that of other major oil consumers, including not merely the principal Western European nations but also Japan," he said.

Mr. Ball offers his idea, which was used and tested in the past by former Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, who established such an association in 1956, when President Jamal Abdul Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal: "To provide institutional form for successful collective action we should try to organize a users' association, a device invented by John Foster Dulles..." Ball writes.

Elaborating on the objectives and the style of action and operation of this association Ball writes: "All actions to protect the Gulf should be taken by that association, including diplomatic dealings with the principal Gulf oil-producing states and steps to mobilize the economic and financial, as well as the military leverage of the user nations," Ball says.

After he warns the United States to stop thinking about a unilateral action, after all the blunders the US has made in Lebanon and the Middle East, Ball says: "America's direct intervention would run the risk, as Sheik Yamani of Saudi Arabia has pointed out, of challenging the Soviet Union to intervene against us, while at the same time it might engage our country in direct conflict with either Iraq or Iran...We should try our best to remain neutral and not become a direct participant in a quarrel that only peripherally touches our interests.

'By effectively mobilizing the economic and financial clout of the principal user nations, it could provide a possible alternative to the need for physical force.'

Ball points out that the objectives of this association is to try to keep Gulf oil moving if possible without having to resort to military action. "It's here that a users' association could prove most useful. By effectively mobilizing the economic and financial clout of the principal user nations, it could provide a possible alternative to the need for physical force."

The former permanent representative of the US at the UN stipulates in his warning that "if Iran should for example, continue to attack tankers, Iran's principal consumers acting through the users' association, should promptly stop buying Iranian oil. If Iraq should commit further depredations on shipping or oil facilities, the users' association should not only shut off oil purchases but also the procurement of spare military parts, since France is the major supplier."

On the matter of Israel Mr. Ball explains why the Arab Gulf states refused, so far, to accept direct US involvement in the conflict. "As our preliminary explorations have already shown, the principal Arab oil producers are reluctant to accept military help directly from America. As a result of our intervention in Lebanon and our strategic co-operation agreement with Israel, we have so completely identified our nation with the Israelis as to embarass any Arab state that appeared to be working with our country too intimately...By dealing with a users' association, the Arab nations could avoid the stigma of depending solely on America," Ball concludes.

On the other side of the fence stood former CIA Director and former Secretary of Defence and Secretary of Energy James R. Schlesinger, who argues that the issue is a political crisis, rather than an oil crisis. Schlesinger believes that the success of Ayatollah Khomeini in this war over Iraq will be a calamity far greater than threatened at this juncture by the air attacks.

The former CIA director suggests that the US should encourage the Saudis to assume their share and responsibility to keep the Gulf open and that the West and its allies will have the access to the oil shipments and that free navigation unhampered by neither Iran or Iraq should take place. Schlesinger favours a direct attack on Iran. The question of how to deal with the Iranian air attacks is by using the Saudi airforce, something that the Saudis are afraid to commit themselves to.

Schlesinger says in his analysis: As to the diplomatic ability of the US to keep in touch with both parties in the Gulf war, Schlesinger offers the thought that the US has no diplomatic relations with neither Iran nor Iraq, therefore its direct leverage is thus distinctly limited. This position is contrary to the position taken by Mr. Ball who believes in the magic of diplomacy and political clout.

The Gulf war: An end could be nearer

By Ya'coub Jaber

IS THE war in the Gulf now nearer to an end or closer to expansion and continued escalation?

The answer lies mainly with Iranian leaders who still maintain that the war must continue until President Saddam Hussein is toppled, as if the destiny of one man, no matter how important, deserves all this killing and destruction. But still there is room for genuine hope that Iran will soon reach the end of the road; being unable to do any more to hurt Iraq or other Gulf states.

Right now, Iran seems to pin hope on a planned large-scale two-pronged offensive in an attempt to capture the Iraqi port city of Basra and control a vital sector of Iraqi territory. Iran is said to have massed hundreds of thousands of troops and volunteers for the forthcoming assault, which is expected to be the biggest attack launched by Iran in the 4-year old war.

Iraq, on the other hand, has taken all the necessary measures to repel the Iranian assault. It has threatened that with new weapons it has received from the Soviet Union, it would destroy the Iranian oil terminal of Kharg; thus paralysing Iran's main outlet to the sea and dealing a devastating blow to Iran's financial capacity to continue the war.

The forthcoming round of fighting between the two war-weary nations could be the final stage in their bloody conflict. If the Iranian offensive fails, and there are good reasons to believe that it will, then Iran will not be capable of doing anything else. New sophisticated weapons introduced recently in the region will prevent Iran from striking at ships in the waterway.

Failure of a new Iranian offensive will not necessarily bring an immediate end to the war, which may continue afterwards on a very small scale. But Iran then will be open more than ever before to fresh mediation attempts after exhausting all available means to inflict defeat on Iraq.

Iran is spurred to launch its offensive by its leaders' need to give their disillusioned people something worth the huge sacrifice they had offered in an aimless war. They realize, however, that the next battle would be crucial for the future of their regime and therefore they have prepared well for the planned attack. Iraq, in the meantime, has learned from past experience and seems equally determined not to allow the Iranians to achieve their objective.

It can thus be said with a great degree of certainty that the war between Iraq and Iran is heading towards escalation to be followed by a long recess if the Iranian attack fails. Mediation attempts will then have a very bright chance to succeed because Iran will not be in a position to do anything more.

So in the next few months, the agonizing conflict between the two neighbouring Muslim states could come to an end.

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Middle East Week

DEVELOPMENTS in the Gulf war and Middle East questions are the main headlines in the press this week.

Al-Rai Al-A'am, a Kuwaiti newspaper, writes that it is clear that the crisis in the Gulf has not ended despite the U.N. Security Council resolution which denounced Iranian attacks on neutral shipping. It remarks that Iran was quick to reject the resolution, meaning that Tehran does not intend to discontinue its attacks on ships in the Gulf waterway.

"Although the speaker of the Iranian Parliament has declared that his country does not want to widen the conflict, yet the facts conflict with this statement. Moreover, it is impossible to assume that Iran will alone enjoy free navigation while Iraq is prevented from exporting its oil," the paper says.

Another Kuwaiti newspaper, **Al-Qabas**, expresses the view that the days of the Iran-Iraq war are numbered because Iran is facing mounting difficulties. It says that once the war is over, the Arab losses will be enormous due to those who supported Iran against Iraq. These losses will heighten the anger of the Arab masses.

The paper also writes that the war has created a new spirit in the Gulf because it transferred the peoples of the area from the state of reticense into a state of readiness and serious thinking.

A Cairo newspaper, **Al-Akhbar**, says Egypt supported the U.N. resolution and declared its objection to attacks on ships of countries which are not involved in the conflict. It expresses the hope that Iran would be persuaded to sit at the negotiations table to end its dispute with Iraq after the war has developed into an international issue of concern to the whole world.

The Cairo **Al-Gomhouriya** daily describes the Security Council resolution as a historic document reaffirming the world community's rejection of arrogance and intransigence towards peace initiatives. The paper calls on the international community to adopt firmer measures to end the war, saying that decisions of condemnations are not enough, especially as Iran had rejected them in advance.

In Dubai, **Al-Bayan** newspaper comments on what it calls sudden international concern over recent events in the Gulf, saying that such concern uncovers

Al-Anba'

the opportunism of the superpowers and underlines their attitudes towards world peace and stability. It goes on to say that until recently, the war between Iraq and Iran was almost a forgotten went until the interests of industrial powers were threatened by the attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf. Suddenly, these powers expressed concern and threatened to interfere directly for safeguarding their interests in the region under the pretext of keeping oil routes open and maintaining international peace.

Al-Bayan adds that the behaviour of the superpowers must prompt the combatants to realize the dangers of continuing the fighting and more towards peace and reconciliation to avert a situation threatening the whole region.

The Qatari English-language newspaper, **The Gulf Times**, praises the U.S.'s decision of delivering Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia, saying that the step shows that the U.S. administration can act independently from Israeli wishes.

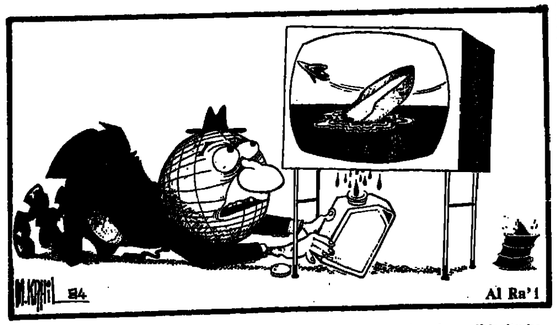
The paper expresses the view that the supply of this weapon will prevent escalation of the Iran-Iraq war.

Jordanian press

Al-Ra'i newspaper in Amman writes that when Iranian Speaker of Parliament Ayatollah Hashimi Rafsanjani said Iran was ready to enter into negotiations to prevent a disaster in the Gulf, he meant in effect to persuade Gulf states to stop its solidarity with Iraq.

"Iran is playing the stick and carrot game in the Gulf, for while it is massing troops along its border with Iraq in preparation for a new offensive, Rafsanjani hints to negotiations in an effort to let other Arab Gulf states to stop their support for Iraq", writes **Al-Ra'i**.

It goes on to say that the Iranian regime would be mistaken if it thought that by



Al Ra'i

this tactic it can undermine solidarity between Iraq and other Gulf states, and it would be more useful for Iran to respond to mediation efforts to achieve a ceasefire and an honourable settlement to the conflict.

Ad-Dustour lashes out strongly at the statement issued by the Lebanese rightist forces in which it attacked the measures taken by Prime Minister Rashid Karami's government. It describes the statement as a document labelling these forces with fanatacism and ignorance.

Ad-Dustour expresses confidence that the Lebanese majority will finally succeed in isolating these right-wing forces which have gone farther than ever before in their hostility to a united democratic Arab Lebanon.

Israeli press

Al-Hamishmar asks: Why do our troops sacrifice their lives in foreign countries and in an endless war?

Not for Israel's security and not to elevate our people's morale because Israel's security is weakened with our army in Lebanon and the morale of the people is hurt with every casualty among our soldiers.

Since the formation of a national coalition government in Lebanon, the political debate reached a deadlock thus serving the interests of all parties involved except those of Israel. This endless war has become a nightmare.

The proof of our deep involvement in Lebanon is the current argument among the US, Israel and Lebanon regarding the continuation of the Israeli diplomatic representative office in Beirut. The Lebanese want us to leave Beirut and they are contacting the Americans rather than the Israeli foreign office.

Time is not on our side in Lebanon, and the sooner we pull out the better, writes the paper.

The court's decision to keep the identity of suspects in secret is an incomprehensible precedent so long as indictments were presented against them, writes **Haaretz**.

The defence attorneys requested to keep the names in the dark in order to avoid revenge by Arab families, but still it is the task of the security forces to provide protection for them, adds the paper.

Davar says that it has been officially proven that two of the bus hijackers died as a result of hits on their heads by sharp tools.

The defence minister did well by condemning this act.

The deterioration of our moral standards stems from our staying in the occupied territories for long years despite the opposition of local residents in addition to our involvement in Lebanon and the presence of the Chief of Staff, Rafael Etan, in his post for years during which he pardoned many persons who were accused of killing Arabs in cold blood, the paper says.

Hatsofeh writes that Israel must take a decision regarding the Israeli representative office in Beirut before the Lebanese government submits a request to close this office.

This office has lost its legitimate status with the abrogation of the treaty of 17 May.

Closing this office by the Karami government means no dialogue with Israel concerning security arrangements in the South. If Karami's government is concerned about negotiations with Israel, it has to keep this office open, but it appears that Lebanon is not willing to have us on their territory, hence we better leave soon and bring our troops to their families, concludes the paper.

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An oil crisis

THE SHOOTING down of two Iranian jet fighters by the Saudi airforce over Saudi territory has for the first time brought the two oil giants of the Arabian Gulf face to face. Tuesday's incident is the beginning of a new thrust of escalation of the Gulf war with new and ominous implications.

While Iran celebrates the 1963 uprising against the Shah and at the same time masses about half a million of its troops along the Iraqi border in preparation for the so-called "final blow" to Iraq, Tuesday's incident could spell the open confrontation between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Whatever the outcome of this clash between the two Gulf countries, it is almost certain that the results generated are not exclusively regional but could also involve the two superpowers.

In fact ever since Iranian and Iraqi attacks began against oil tankers sailing the war-affected waters of the northern Gulf, the American administration has rallied not to defuse tension but to increase its military presence in the oil-rich region. American assistance to Saudi Arabia should not be taken at its face value since it does not effectively help in deterring further attacks on oil tankers and disrupting their passage in and out of the Straits of Hormuz.

As all initiatives to end the Gulf war seem to be destined for failure and are superseded by a hightening wave of tension across the Iraqi-Iranian border, evidence of a forthcoming oil crisis similar to that which followed the 1973 Arab-Israeli war is in the air. As the Western nations are directly affected by the results of the Gulf war it is no wonder that it is the main concern of the heads of the seven industrial powers who are meeting in London this week.

Time to unite

LAST TUESDAY was the 17th anniversary of the June 1967 war in which Israel occupied large parts of three Arab states and shocked the consciousness of the Arab nation. Indeed, as we reflect on this immensely tragic event-paralleled in enormity only by the Crusaders' occupation of Palestine in the Middle Ages — we cannot but be depressed by its historical implications coupled with the sad fact that the Arab and Islamic nations have not as yet adequately responded by way of preparation and concrete action to confront the creeping Zionist challenge.

It must be emphasized that remembrance is not the only thing needed. Rather, the Arabs must try to overcome the very factors which made possible the devastating, if humiliating, Israeli victory. These factors and elements of divisiveness are evident now more than was the case prior to 1967.

The modern Middle Eastern scene is punctuated by the following phenomena: Iraq and Iran have been entangled in a terrible war for four years; Egypt's military and political weight has been neutralized by virtue of its peace treaty with Israel; the latter is occupying parts of Lebanon and is constantly managing to sabotage a political settlement of the Lebanese civil war; the Palestinian resistance movement is divided. It has been encircled by the setbacks it suffered in Beirut and subsequently in Tripoli.

With unprecedented speed the Israelis are constructing settlements on Arab land in the quest for ultimate annexation of the West Bank and Gaza coupled with the expulsion of the inhabitants. And conflict and its stability permeate the Arab North African scene. In the shadow of these grim realities is disunity endemic in the Arab scene reflected in the de facto paralyzed Arab League.

A gloomy horizon is brightened by the valiant struggles of the Lebanese in southern Lebanon and the Arab population in occupied Palestine. Despite a demoralizing Arab situational context and a pitiless occupying power, the Arab population under occupation has made self-sacrifice and perseverance in hardship, symbols of their existence. Still, the Israelis are striving to transform the demographic, cultural, economic, and political map of the occupied territories and the situation to put it mildly, is ominous.

On this unhappy anniversary, it is no insight to conjecture that the Arab states are on the threshold of another major defeat if the haemorrhaging on all levels is not stopped. The Arab governments, at the highest levels, must work together to transcend the inner divisions and strive to establish a united military and political front. It is no exaggeration to say that no less a disaster than the 1967 defeat is at stake. The onus is on the Arab leaders to live up to their historic responsibilities and avert a calamity.

Ronald Reagan with Mrs Thatcher at 10 Downing Street during the former's visit last Tuesday for the London Economic Summit.

Economic summit looks at political challenges

By Len Rockingham
Star London Correspondent

THIS WEEK is of major importance for Mrs Margaret Thatcher in her bid to play a new and decisive role in world affairs. Not only will she be the host in London to the seven-nation economic summit — which comes at what could be a crisis period in world interest rates and the debts of the Third World — but she will also be engaged in bi-lateral talks with all her prominent guests on a wide range of current world issues, from the nuclear arms race, to the Gulf war and Southern Africa.

The prime minister's credentials for this international role are not, on the face of it, all that impressive. Since achieving power five years ago, she has tended to concentrate on domestic British affairs and has not established a reputation as a globe-trotter, unlike two of her guests, President Mitterrand of France and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada. What Mrs Thatcher does have to offer is a self-confidence and assurance which are second to none. She has also held office for longer than any of her guests, except Mr Trudeau who is, in any case, on the brink of retirement.

Mrs Thatcher's assurance was well demonstrated in two events which took place before the summit. On Saturday, she braved a storm of protest, from at home and abroad, and entertained the South African Prime Minister, Mr P.W. Botha, to lunch at her country residence. She was thus the first British prime minister to do so for 23 years, a period in which South Africa has been excluded from the United Nations and shunned by most of the world.

But, far from giving her blessing to the apartheid policies of the South African government as her critics alleged, she indulged in some plain speaking to Mr Botha, roundly condemning their racial policies and sternly warning the South Africans against their agents operating in Britain against black dissidents. The positive side of the five-and-a-half hour session Mrs Thatcher had with Mr Botha was some progress towards the independence of Namibia — a topic she will take up later this week with President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl of West Germany.

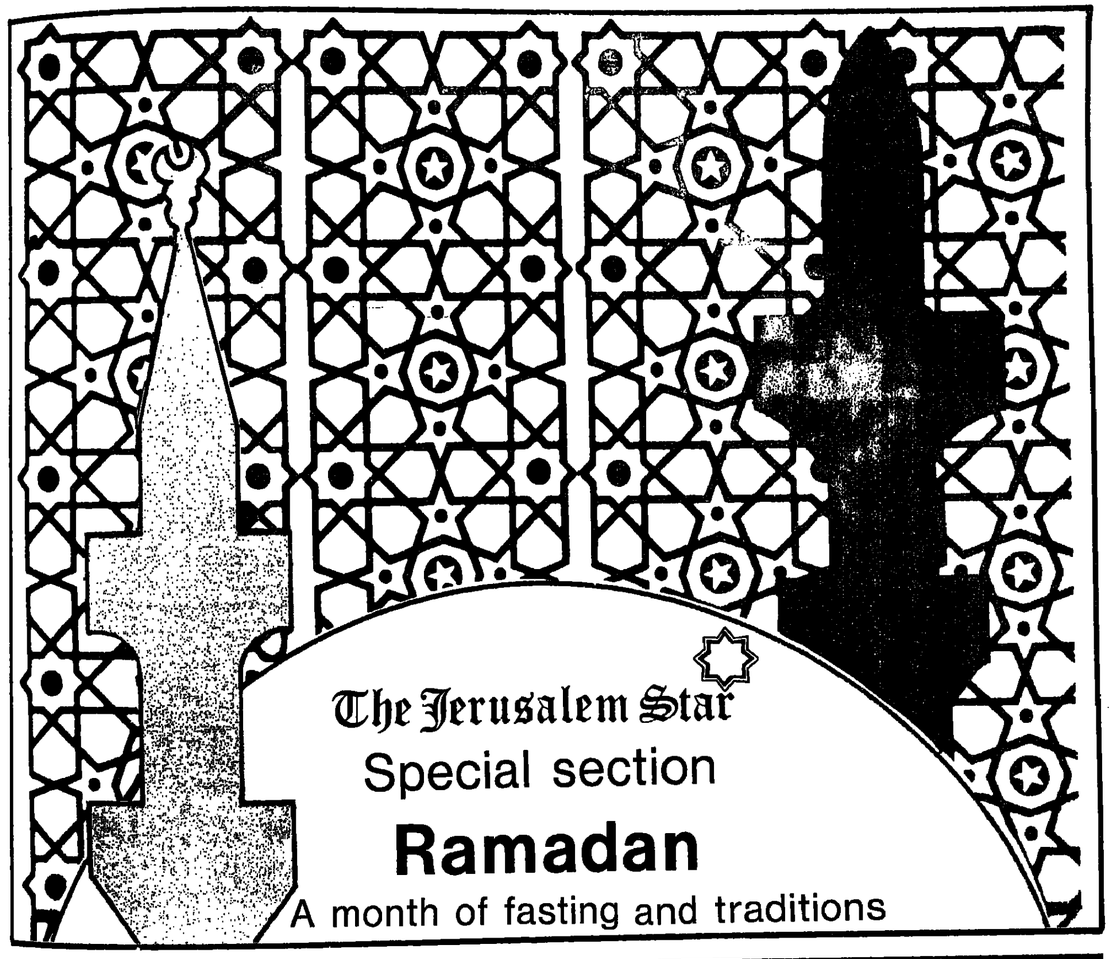
The other event was Mrs Thatcher's welcome to President Reagan, when he and Mrs Nancy Reagan arrived in London from Ireland on Monday. A spectacular welcoming ceremony was laid on at Kensington Palace in West London and there, before the world's cameras, Mrs Thatcher greeted the president and his wife with kisses on the cheeks. If anything could have demonstrated the 'special relationship' between Britain and the United States it was those rather uncharacteristic kisses.

Indeed, apart from the hard bargaining over economic issues and the bi-lateral talks on diplomatic topics, this is a week which will have its full share of ceremonial. At the economic summit, there will be the dinner parties and the obligatory gathering on the lawns of Lancaster House, near Buckingham Palace, for the cameras. And on the eve of the summit, Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan crossed the English channel with Queen Elizabeth to be present at the fortieth anniversary celebrations of 'D-Day' — the allied landings in Nazi-occupied Normandy in 1944. The theme of those celebrations might be described as peace through strength and determination, and the same theme will be apparent in this week's London talks.

East-West relations are one of the major topics for discussion, following President Reagan's speech in Dublin in which he urged the Russians to return to the arms control talks, and said he was prepared to halt or even reverse the deployment of US nuclear missiles in Europe if negotiations resulted in a verifiable and fair agreement. President Reagan's speech was notable for its lack of any bellicose language and this will be popular with both American electors and the Europeans. President Mitterrand has confirmed that he will be visiting Moscow later this month, so there is the possibility of the London summit being used for the Western powers to get their act together over ways of improving East-West relations.

The other non-economic topic which will figure prominently in the London talks is the Gulf war. Britain, the United States and France are all deeply concerned about the escalation of the fighting between Iran and Iraq and the recent attacks on shipping in the Gulf. All three powers have the ability to move ships and aircraft into the Gulf in an effort to stop the attacks on shipping, at least. But Japan, which is almost wholly dependent on Gulf oil, is also deeply concerned and the war is likely to be thoroughly discussed by Mrs Thatcher and the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Nakasone, who is staying on in Britain next week for an official visit.

On the primary issues of the summit — the attempts to stop world interest rates from rising and thus increasing to perhaps impossible proportions the debt burden on Third World countries — the prospects for agreement in London are good, although not spectacular. Many observers are sceptical about the ability of these economic summit meetings to effect lasting changes to national economic policies, especially in a year when the Americans, Canadians and Japanese are all holding elections. This in effect will be the greatest test of Mrs Thatcher's abilities. All the signs are that she is looking forward to the test with enthusiasm and is determined to put aside her role as a British national leader and assume a more statesmanlike attitude than she has sometimes shown in the past.



Ramadan all over the world

Religion and celebrations come out

By Sawsan Musallam

IN ALL Muslim countries in the last days before Ramadan you will see hawkers setting up their stalls ready to sell festive sweets and drinks. Housewives will be busy stocking up with the particular foods associated with the feast. On the night before Ramadan, Muslims around the world stay up to spot the new moon that marks the beginning of the holy month.

But once the feast is underway, each country brings its own special flavour to the month, both in its festivities and food.

Morocco

The cultural attache at the Moroccan Embassy in Amman told The Star that Ramadan in his country has a special religious value that cannot be felt in any other Muslim country. Moroccan law is very strict on the issue of eating or drinking in public, one is sentenced to six years imprisonment if caught breaking the law. But, he said, most people and even foreign residents, do respect the law. All restaurants and coffee shops are closed during the day, liquor stores are also closed and do not open until two weeks after the Eid.

After the Iftar, each day a man goes up to the top of each mosque and plays a small trumpet, called a 'mizmar' until Isha, a meal between the Iftar and the Suhoor. After Isha another man plays on a trumpet for a while, people then go out to visit each other and playcards until the Suhoor.

Traditional Moroccan families usually sleep after Iftar and wake up again for Suhoor at the sound of Al Musaher, the one who beats on a drum and calls out to people to wake up. Al-Musaher in Morocco beats on his drum the number-of-days that have passed from Ramadan so far.

During the whole month the streets are filled with rows of tables laden with Ramadan sweets.

The most important night in Ramadan for Moroccans is the 27, the night of power, during which the doors of heaven are believed to open. So, after Iftar on this special night people put on their best clothes, for the men usually wide, white robes and a Tarboush. They go out walking in the streets and the men stay up praying in mosques all night on the grounds that every prayer is answered on this night. On this day, people cook Couscous for dinner and give part of it away for charity.

After the 27th, preparations for the Eid begin. People clean their houses up and paint them outside. They buy new clothes for children and the men usually wear their traditional dress.

The Eid in Morocco is considered the best time for patching up disputes between families because people have to visit each other on that day. Green tea and various kinds of sweets are usually served to visitors people on Eid and the trumpet players and the Musaher visit each house in the neighbourhood to collect money for the feast.

Saudi Arabia

The Saudis do things differently. In Saudia, and especially in Hijaz, people have a short naps after the Iftar which is usually broken by Al Magreb prayer. When the people awake they go to Mosque for their Isha prayer which is followed by Al Taraweeh, which are special Ramadan prayers performed by all Muslims.

Most men go back to work after the Iftar from 8-10 p.m. Women remain at home to do their household jobs until men get back from work. People stay up late and exchange visits until it is time for Suhur. After that they perform morning prayer

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Muslim life in the holy month

By Fadia Faqir
Special to The Star

"O YE asleep declare the everlasting to be one," wakes up every Muslim after the appearance of the new moon establishes the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, in which the holy Qur'an was revealed. The 'musaher' beats his drum and recites verses, every night to make sure that every family in his area is awake in order for them to eat 'Suhur' the meal taken before sunrise.

All Muslims regardless of their group, class, race or country participate in this collective communial act of fasting. People brave the intense heat of summer and the sharp pangs of hunger and thirst during the day, and devote their nights to prayer, obeying the commands of God contained in this Quranic verse:

O ye who believe. Fasting is prescribed to you,
As it was prescribed to those before you, that
ye may learn self-restraint. (-ii:183)

Looking at the faces of their fasting children, mothers find extra energy to prepare the festive dishes of Ramadan. 'Atteif', a pastry stuffed with cheese, almonds walnuts pistachios, baked and dipped in syrup. Of course, food is also sent to neighbours especially if they are poor.

Right before sunset the 'Azan' announces the 'Iftar', the breaking of fasting. The family gathers around the table invoking God and asking for his blessing, and when they hear the 'Azan', they all say,

A prayer

"O God for you I have fasted, on you I have depended, and with your blessing I have broken my fasting," and start eating.

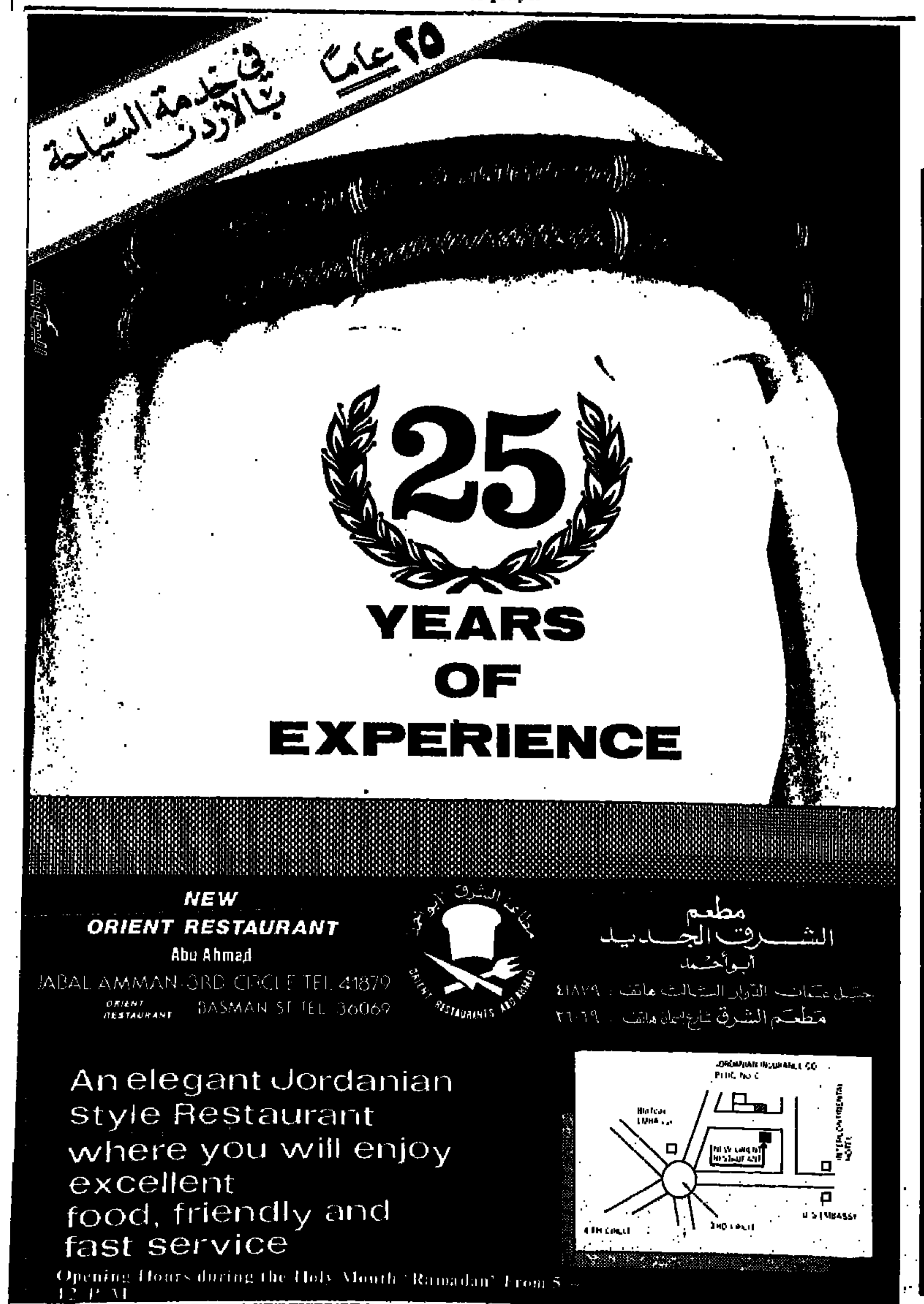
After 'Iftar', people floack to the brightly lit mosques to attend evening prayers and the Taraweeh, a prayer held in Ramadan only which helps Muslims in learning the holy Qur'an by heart. Few people stay at home, instead they go out to the markets, the streets and the gardens. The sound of the 'Azan', the clinking of the 'Suse' peddlers glasses the cries of the children and the songs of the 'Musaher' combine together to form the background music of Ramadan.

Muslims all over the world experience serenity and tranquility. Their prayfullness, piety, warmheartedness and charity reaches its peak. The Holy Prophet said, "when the month of Ramadan comes the gates of Heaven are thrown open."

During the last ten days of Ramadan, believers stay continuously in the mosque; for the time of 'Iaktikaff'. They pray, recite Qur'an, and invoke God to share the blissfullness of 'Lailatul Qader' (The Night of Power) which generally falls on the 27th day of Ramadan. The one who offers faith on that night "All his previous sins will be forgiven."

Although the feast at the end of Ramadan is welcomed with special joy, and people start to prepare enthusiastically for it by cooking date and nut cakes and sewing new clothes, Ramadan's departure is received with forlorness. The 'Musaher' adds extra verses to his song in the last ten days, and all Muslims, with eyes full of tears, repeat with him,

May we not part with you Ramadan
May we not part with you, month of Qur'an
May we not part with you, month of fasting
May we not part with you, month of repentence.



Ramadan: Modern meanings

By K[illegible]selbeh

AS THE [illegible] of Ramadan unfolds [illegible] to reflect on its mean[illegible] modern man. Indeed it[illegible] of fasting from sun[illegible] sunset appears to [illegible] unnecessary hardship [illegible] not familiar with Isla[illegible] what is its meaning [illegible]nificance for Muslim a[illegible]-Muslim?

Essentia[illegible] purpose of Ramadan is [illegible] and enhance the [illegible] psychological and mo[illegible]ities of both the individ[illegible] the community. To this [illegible] the notion of strengthe[illegible] will and resolve of [illegible]munity as it meets the [illegible] challenges.

Ramadan [illegible] holiest of months for [illegible] as it is the month in w[illegible] revealed the Holy Qur'a[illegible] Prophet Muhammad [illegible] Qur'anic verse reve[illegible] Ramadan's status in Islam

"The m[illegible] of Ramadan in which was [illegible] the Qur'an, a guidance [illegible] mankind, and clear proof [illegible] guidance, and the criteri[illegible] and wrong).

Islam [illegible] the absolute equality [illegible] before God. Fasting is [illegible] growth of this notion for [illegible] related reasons. First, as fa[illegible] imposed on all Muslims, [illegible] and the indigent [illegible] in their experience of thirst and hunger. Secondly, the experience of hunger by the affluent augments their sympathy for the poorer segments of society. This helps to re-inforce the social fabric.

Ramadan is a month of atonement. It is a month when the human soul is purified by the act of self-denial, coupled with the conduct of ones life in a moral fashion. The Prophet Muhammad said "He who does not give up uttering falsehood and acting according to it, Allah has no need of his giving up his food and his drink."

As mentioned earlier, Ramadan carries special significance as it is the month in which the first Divine revelation was received by Muhammad. The following verses from the Qur'an describe the event. "Lo! We revealed it on the Night of Power. Ah, what will convey unto thee what the Night of Power is. The Night of Power is better than a thousand months. The angels and the spirit descend therein, by the permission of their Lord, with all decrees. (That night is) peace until the rising of the dawn."

The word Islam means essentially submission (to God). In fact, all the postulates of Islam, in terms of ritual and decrees, revolve around re-inforcing the spiritual and moral act of submission. Fasting is in a sense a ritual whose ultimate purpose is to strengthen the bond between the worshipper and worshipped, between man and God.

Islam is not exceptional in imposing fasting on its adherents for fasting is an integral part of all the religions of man. It has to do with the process whereby man renounces the material, the carnal, in favour of transendent spiritual and moral pursuits. This process is present in all religions and is the essence of human mysticism.

Human nature contains a complex of interacting passions, impulses, desires and emotions. Many of these impulses if expressed without restraint, interfere negatively with the process of moral and spiritual submission to God. Fasting trains us to exercise control over those forces, allowing for expression but always reserving the act of spiritual submission as the ultimate and predominating volitional force.

Synthetically Ramadan signifies mercy, compassion, morality, equality in faith and righteousness. In an age plagued by materialism, violence, poverty and injustice, fasting in this sacred month represents a message of hope and freedom, hope that God will bless the world with a better tomorrow and freedom from the shackles of corruption, materialism and enslavement to desires and passions.

JUST AFTER Iftar, when it is time for dessert, the noise and smell of sizzling Kataief is everywhere to be found. Kataief is a delicious and immensely popular Ramadan dessert. It is pancake-like daugh, lightly fried over the oven, then stuffed with nuts or cheese, dipped in essence and baked again to a tasty crisp. The queues for it at crowded bakeries are long but almost everyone thinks the effort is worth it. (Pictures by Munir Al-Asi)

Islam in India
Old mosques stand gracefully

By G K Nair
Star Staff Writer

First sight of the new Moon, at the close of the eight month of the Hejra Era, marks the beginning of the sacred month of Ramadan, during which the Holy Qur'an was revealed, and it marks the beginning of month long fasting from dawn to dusk each day. The Muslims of India, estimated to be about 90 million, observe the fasting strictly and the month is kept with enthusiasm especially in important centres of Muslim culture in the country.

The beginning and the end of the day's fasting is announced by beating drums. During the nights the Mosques are crowded with worshippers and they resound with the recitation of Holy Qur'an.

One of the most important days of observance in India during Ramadan is the 27th night. The prayer in this night is considered by the Muslims as more rewarding even more than that of praying for a thousand months. On this 27th night the Muslims in India offer prayers with utmost devotion and purity.

On completion of the fasting period which is decided by the appearance of the new Moon of the month of Shawwal, Eid-al-Fitr is celebrated with great eclat. Prayers are offered in Mosques and the Idgahs and festivities are held.

All Muslims young and old, dress in their finest and best cloths and enjoy themselves to their hearts' content. The Hindus also join them in celebration of this great festival and embrace them and exchange good wishes. In Kerala on the day the fasting breaks, the head of the family distributes — the Fikr Zakat — 2.3 Kilogrammes of rice per head to each member of the family and his dependents.

Cheeraman Juma Masjid in Kerala second oldest mosque in the world

India with an estimated population of 90 million Muslims [illegible] the second largest Muslim population in the world, second o[illegible] to Indonesia. Islam is a li[illegible] reality in the subcontinent [illegible] through centuries it has flourished in India.

A look at history reveals [illegible] Islam reached India as early [illegible] seventh century when the Ar[illegible] sailors and traders from Mu[illegible] and Hormuz reached the Malab[illegible] coast, the south western coast [illegible] the Kerala State of the Indian union and settled there.

They were followed by the Turks, the Afghans and the Mughals to the northern part of India. Their Islamic traditions influenced the people of the subcontinent and culminated in the synthesis of Indo- Islamic architecture, art, painting and music. The Urdu language introduced by the Muslim rulers and widely spoken by the Muslims in the Northern India, is derived from the combination of Hindi syntex with Persian and Arabic voccabulary.

The Indian State of Kerala is of particular historical importance to the entire Islamic world. The Cheeraman Juma Masjid built in the 7th century at Kodungallur, a south western coastal town, which served as a port for the sailors in ancient times, is not only the oldest in India but is also the second, only to that built in Medina by The Prophet Mohammad in 622.

Cheeraman, who built this mosque was the last of the Perumal kings who ruled Kerala in the Seventh Century. He was influenced by the teachings of the Prophet embraced Islam and is reputed to have married a niece of the Prophet. He is also believed to be the one amongst the first Indians who have performed Haj.

Cheeraman Juma Masjid unlike other mosques in the northern part of the country, has no domes, arches or minarets. It is, instead, a tiled two storey building with corridors on the four sides of the centre hall. Withstanding natures' tortures, the Mosque still remains as strong as ever.

Centuries thereafter, passed quietly and by the last decade of the 12th century, Islamic power was established in Northern India. This has brought into contact two contrasting cultures whose combined genious gave birth to Indo-Islamic architecture and created one of the richest periods in the Indian history. Absorbing features both from Persian and Indian desgins, Mosques were built through out India. These are now among the finest flowers in the basket of Islamic architecture.

All the Mosques in India are of historical importance, however, some are outstanding. One among them is the Shrine or Dargah of Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer, a holy city for Muslims in the subcontinent. It is the second oldest in India. This shrine is a centre of pilgrimage and people from all

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Ramadan: A special way of life for Muslims

Continued from page 15

and go to sleep. The women stay asleep until noon then they wake up to prepare the Iftar food and read the Qur'an.

The last ten days of Ramadan are very important in the Hijaz region, said Miss Nibras Taifi, a Saudi Arabian student in Jordan. She said people go to Mecca for special worship every day.

A day before the feast, people usually buy new clothes and new furniture for the house. The Saudis have a tradition of turning all their carpets upside down during the Ramadan days so that all dust comes out and the carpets will be clean and ready to be set in their right position for the feast.

When the Eid cannons sound, people perfume their houses with incense. Men begin visiting from the first night of the Eid, but women stay at home on the first day.

Egypt

Egyptian Mr. Muhammad Ismail told The Star that in Cairo, in Al Husein Area in particular, Sufis start to perform their prayers in public as soon as they spot the moon. During the month open air stages are set up in the same area. Actors and singers come to perform their new productions.

In Ramadan Cairo stays up active around the clock. After the Iftar, people can be seen chating and smoking water pipes in the famous Al-Fishawi cafe and in various other cafes of the city.

In the Egyptian countryside, small boys carry lanterns on the first day of Ramadan and wander around their town singing welcome songs for the feast. During the month, men gather together after the Iftar to chat and listen to the radio or to read the Qur'an. Iftar in the country is usually given at home by various members of the family in turn.

Streets and shop fronts in Egypt are all lit and decorated to celebrate Ramadan, but there are no restriction or laws concerning eating in public.

Ghana

In Ghana also there are no restrictions on eating or smoking in public but this is because the Muslims are a minority of population says Ghanian Abdullah Bukari, a student at the college of Islamic sciences. He says people do not stay up awake after the Iftar, they usually go to sleep and wake up for Suhur which is at 3.30 pm there at due to time differences.

People pray in the mosques every day and they bring fruit with them and distribute it among those praying.

Muslims in Ghana are allowed a holiday for the Eid and on the first day the children wake up early in the morning and go from place to place beating drums. People go to visit each others and give small children money as an Eid gift. The young men and women usually perform "Abalabi", a special Eid dance. A day before the Eid, people rush out to markets to buy presents for their family members.

Singapore

In Singapore Ramadan celebrations are most clearly seen in the vicinity of the Sultan mosque where many stalls with special Iftar cakes and sweets are set up every evening in Bussorah and Arab streets.

Preparations for the Eid begin during the last few days of Ramadan and in the Geylang Serai area the Malay women go to the markets to buy all sorts of provision for their kitchens.

In the markets and in Arab streets there are stalls selling a variety of traditional Malay fabrics such as Kain Songket, heavily embroidered with silver and gold, and batik, a patterned material printed by intricate wax process.

The day of the feast, Hari Raya, is marked by thanksgiving prayers at all mosques Muslims afterwards dress in their best clothes and exchange visits with their relatives and friends. At each visit people repeat the same actions. They shake hands with their left hand held close to their hearts and then they are served with sweet meats.

Many varieties of food prepared by Malay house themselves are served during the first day of Hari Raya to impress guests and the children of the family compete to serve food on silver trays to their guests.

Pakistan

Mrs. Ihsan Rashid, the wife of the Pakistani ambassador, told The Star that people in Pakistan can be seen on the rooftops a day before Ramadan watching for the moon as there is no one officially in charge of spoting it.

Children are very enthusiastic about Ramadan, she said, because whenever a child fasts for the first time he is given especially decorated clothes, lots of flowers and sweets as presents.

During Ramadan people sing a quasida which is a special song in praise of the Prophet Muhammad. For religious celebrations, people gather in the Maliha mosque to pray and read the Qur'an. People from different houses prepare various kinds of food and send them to those in the mosque to break their fast at Iftar time.

Abbas Ar-Riami, a Pakistani student at the University of Jordan told The Star that after the Iftar, people stay up and wait for the Suhur. They watch television together and listen to stories, young men may go to sports clubs which stay open all night in Ramadan and some people just go to out to sit and chat outside.

During Ramadan those who can help the needy by sending them food because fasting is meant to make people feel greater sumpathy with their fellow human beings. As in Jordan, eating in public is completely prohibited, bars are closed and working hours are reduced.

A woman from Singapore busily working on a traditional weaving

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The Ramadan of the future

By Ahmad Al-Anani
Special to The Star

BACK in the early nineteen forties a British graduate of Oxford University was appointed to the department where I worked in Jerusalem. The man was tall and enjoyed a straight form as if he had been pulled up in specialized machine. He was possessed of a seemingly pleasant smile.

Everything pertaining with him was refined, he would express himself slowly, gently and with a high sense of humour. He was the very British gentleman that cardinal Newman, the famous 19th century writer described.

During this time the Zionist bandits of the stern and Irgun Zvai Leumi were committing all sorts of atrocious deeds. And yet the British tolerated with great patience all that fell their lot from those terrorists.

The gentleman of Oxford only once lost his balance, following the announcement of a really dreadful crime that Begin's men had committed against two British army sergeants. The two were kidnapped and there was an intensive search for them. At last the two unfortunate men were found hanged. Each had a big poster containing all kinds of curses of Britain and the British Empire.

Our Oxford man said, "It is really silly that the Muslims (he said this in purpose rather than say Arabs) should allow these atrocities to go on in their country." "I am afraid," he went on to say while his face reddened like a starkin apple, "the Muslims are finally decimated." He was looking right at a man who said he was an Egyptian but who looked more like a Sudanese.

"Dear Sir," the Egyptian interrupted, "for British sergeants the British should take vengeance not the Muslims, that's one point. For the second I will just kindly ask you to listen to this quotation from this book by Professor Gibb, the famous Arabist, whom, I know, you had in highest esteem.

He quoted, "By the eighties of this century the Islamic world shall have entered this stage that I have described. Thousands and thousands of highly educated young Muslims will categorically refuse to imitate the hypocritic ways of the generations before them. Their calibre shall by all means be very different from that of the ancient and disintegrating families. They will be adamant in refusing the hypocratic contradictions between what they say they believe and what they do. Consequently the West has to have its eyes well-opened to the dangers of such challenges." "Quotation Over," he concluded and closed his book.

I remember I made for a small corner bookshop near the old Jerusalem Post Office and bought the book which was titled, "Studies on Islam."

I read it twice, very thoroughly, and have always pondered whether the prophecies of Professor Gibb have so far come true. I would say not exactly, and the reasons lie in oil.

Oh, this oil and the headaches it has caused and shall cause. And the hinderance it has been to our re-awakening.

Except for some limited social services, since the mid-seventies has caused us more harm than good.

All obstacles that Muslims have to face could have been surmounted so easily had not oil punctured the wheels of our intellegensia's will. The influx of money for the augmentation of foolish consumption has ruined us.

It has been a real blessing that as from 1981 the oil mania has come to something like a reasonable stage.

Better judgements now prevail and a more advanced and a more studied version of Islam is taking root. How I wish that Allah, will grant me a few more years before the conclusion of my life span. I wish to see a Ramadan of truly understanding Muslims and I am sure that the whole world of Ramadan will undergo a great change.

The acquisition of foodstuffs shall become a dead letter. People will choose to starve for the benefiting of those who are needy. Muslims shall approach the Qur'an with the intention to learn and to act accordingly. That day is coming. How happy will it be and how different from our own dismaying days!

Ramadan in Palestine: Folklore and prayer

By Sana' Alul
Special to The Star

TO FOCUS on Ramadan today and in the time before occupation is to see how life has changed in the West Bank.

Before occupation, it was the custom of the people to go out after dark to go visiting to wander around town. Most people went to the Mosques for prayers and then on to the coffee houses to smoke narjeleh (hubble bubble) in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere.

Today most people just stay at home. If they want to go out it is just for short, essential visits, or for a short visit to the Mosque.

Children used to go around the neighbourhoods, beating their drum-like tins, chanting special Ramadan songs and asking for sweets and other Ramadan delights from house wives. They would return home late at night without being scared of anything, nowadays if they do go out at all after the Iftar it is in groups.

Mosques were always opened with many people staying there from the evening until the time of the Suhur.

It was also traditional for people to walk around neighbourhoods beating the drums to announce to people that it was time for Suhur. This is another tradition that has been killed by Israeli restrictions.

One other characteristic of Ramadan was the blank shells were fired from an old-fashioned cannon to announce the iftar and fasting times in addition to prayer times. Nowadays this tradition has been banned by the Israeli authorities for security reasons. On one occasion after 1967 the man in charge of firing the cannon was harassed by Israeli security men for carrying out his traditional task. Because of the restrictions imposed by the Israel's Ramadan has lost many of its social characteristics and this has affected even the religious aspects of the feast. For example today many people will not visit the Aqsa Mosque for prayer at all because they fear a repeat of terrorist attacks by Jewish extremists.

Life has changed under Israel's terror. Hebron with Jewish settlements occupying the nearby hills (top left)

Mecca Masjid, Hyderabad — an edifice of dignified design

Islam in India

Continued from pages 16 & 17

over India and abroad visit every year.

It has two gigantic cauldrons which are used to cook sweet rice for the pilgrims. The smallest pot holds 2240 kilogrammes and the largest one 4480 kilogrammes of rice.

Mecca Masjid

The Mecca Masjid of Hyderabad in the south central Indian city is a magnificent edifice of dignified design. The mosque, which took almost a century to build (1617-1693), has the legend that the bricks used in its construction were brought from Mecca and hence the name. The most unusual architectural feature of this mosque is that the high pillars supporting the arches of the main prayer hall are fashioned out of single slabs of granite. There are no domes, instead, two tall minarets and an attractive entrance with a colonnade leading to the large prayer hall, which is capable of accommodating 10,000 worshippers.

It is believed that the foundation of the Mosque was laid by a Qutab Shahi King, a pious man who had not missed a single prayer since he was 12.

The 16th century Juma Masjid built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in Delhi, the Indian capital city, is acclaimed as the finest and largest in India. Five thousand men worked for six years (1650-56) to complete it at a cost of IRs 1 million (US $ 100,000). The vast courtyard of 400 sq. metre is reached by a wide flight of steps. Elegant pavilions of different sizes punctuate the parapats on all corners and on the western hall. In the centre of the courtyard is a water tank of worshippers ablutions.

An unusual feature of the Mosque is its place for announcement. Normally, the acoustics of even large Mosques are adequate for the Nuezzin to announce to the gathering and have the announcement relayed by previously appointed people in the backrows and the courtyard. But in the Juma Masjid, where over 50,000 people at a time can pray, a platform of grey stone was erected in the courtyard so that the Muezzin and his three assistants could relay the announcements or Takbir. Later this was replaced by a large one of marble in harmony with the architecture.

In the prayer hall, the prayer niche for the Imam is large and beautifully decorated. The graceful pulpit is made of a single piece of marble. The three domes are of white marble, with black stripes topping the hall.

Kamel Abu Jaber

June and Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq

Greetings to Jerusalem!

I DECIDED to write about June not because of the pleasant memories it generates, or of June brides, summer vacations or of flowers, but for the significance it will hold for a long time to come as the month in which all of Palestine came *under the Israeli sway, the month in which Jerusalem fell.*

It is not a pleasant or a dear memory, but rather a reminder of the evil that has befallen the Arab world since the creation of the State of Israel. An organised, well-planned evil, emanating from a military machine the efficiency and ruthlessness of which has been proven time and again. It is the month in which organization, though almost demonic in character, clashed with well-intentioned, innocent almost childish enthusiasm. The outcome was certain. From the very early hours of the clash, organization triumphed and the innocent nationalistic slogans that once pervaded the Arab world began their steady downward slide and retreat.

June 1967 is a watershed in modern Arab history, separating the nationalistic, enthusiastic daydreams of the Arabs and the shattering shock of the realization regarding the real meaning of power, real politik and international friendships. Until now, many Arabs, even some in responsible positions, refuse to accept the fact that there are no friends in the jungle; that the real story is that of survival and that those who survive are those who learn quickly to adjust to the atmosphere of the jungle.

It is unfortunate that poets do not make decisions and that the month of June, the sixth one of the year, has come to stand for defeat, desecration and shame. In June 1967 the cool, narrow alleyways of Jerusalem some leading to the Aqsa Mosque and others to the Holy Sepulchre Church were desecrated with the heavy boots of Israeli soldiers shattering the stillness of the city, the city that one Menachem Begin, a Polish Jew, refers to as the eternal capital of Israel. And while Fairuz continues to sing of the great anger, the heavy shadow of Israeli suzerainty, continues to spread over the entire city.

Mr Nabih Berri, Shi'ite leader and minister of occupied South Lebanon, has called for a day of "anger" against the continued occupation of the south of Lebanon by Israel. Mr Berri is perhaps afraid that the south of Lebanon will become the 'North Bank' of Israel and will also be swallowed-up by the insatiable appetite of the Zionist state.

The 5th of June does not just commemorate the seventeenth anniversary of the occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights of Syria and Sinai where at Jaba, Israel still maintains a presence, but the second anniversary of the invasion of Lebanon by Israel as well. Incidentally, the 7th of June also commemorates the fourth anniversary of the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

And now I read that the Imam Khomeini, asked to leave Iraq at the insistence of the Shah as a precondition for concluding the 1975 Iran-Iraq border treaty, did so on the 5th of June, in commemoration of which he has promised to order the launching of yet another major attack on Iraq. June is not a good month for the Arabs but then, which month is?

How did the Arabs become surrounded by fanaticism on both sides, west and east? A fanaticism that feeds on violence and thrives on the absence of peace. It has long been demonstrated to anyone whose prejudices are not strong enough to alter the facts, that Israel thrives in the absence of peace: That the best environment for its continued existance is that of no-war-no-peace, one in which it can choose the place and the time to strike at its victims.

It is a long established scientific fact that some creatures cannot adequately survive without violence of one sort or another. And violence, it seems, has also become the raison d'etre of the Iranian revolution else why not accept the repeated calls for mediation, compromise and reconciliation?

The Imam Khomeini, addressing his soldiers last week on the necessity for continuing the war against Iraq was quoted as saying "Patience my children patience!... I am sure you will conquer the world and rid it of corruption..." The Imam Ali Akbar Mashkini of Qum also said last week, "should this war end, our revolution may be lost .... without this war, we will become just another government and we will lose the responsibility we now hold: The responsibility of the resurrection of Islam."

And instead of harvesting their crops, developing their countries or swimming the hot weather away, the Arab youth find themselves in trenches having to fight fanaticism *on both sides: medieval and modern.*

Third World media fallacies

By Henry Matar

TOWARDS THE end of last week's article on "Third World mass-media crisis", it was suggested that, before trying to assess the success, or otherwise the failure, the Non-Aligned Movement has achieved in the matter of releasing its mass-media machineries from the grip of Western influence, a survey of the West's informational brainwashing impact on the Third World be made.

Fortunately enough, meanwhile, a publication in Arabic on the subject, entitled "Towards a contemporary native culture via a sound informational concept" has recently been put out by the "Jordanian Bureau of Culture and Information", in Amman. The author, Mr Issam Hammad, is one of the few masters of Arabic material writers. He is known as a poet, a journalist, a public and political opinion commentator and columnist, a specialist in the study of the theatre and theatrical art, the author of good number of books and dissertations, and above all a professional man of information through the radio medium.

In this latter capacity he has spent a period of forty years, giving his word on the subject. Over and above all this, the word he delivers in speech, or he commits to writing can be described as clear, purposeful, smooth running, and dulcet tasting word. In brief, he has full respect for the precise word for the proper meaning. His last recent output on "Culture and information" is not only to be recommended for keeping at every cultured person's home library but also for rendering it into translation to foreign languages.

It is no secret to say that the statistical data on the dominational influence of Western propaganda and mass media, supplied in the final paragraph of last week's article, drew upon certain articles Mr Hammad contributed to two magazines formerly issued by the Royal Scientific Society: namely, "The Scientific Culture" and "The Arab Perspective." It was also in his contribution to the latter magazine that Mr Hammad first made reference to the dilemmas, or fallacies which the West has misled the Third World Mass Media into.

These fallacies, as expounded in Mr Hammad's most recent publication, are the fallacies concerning the arbitrary en*slavement that the technology of* mass media has imposed upon man, the neutrality of mass media, the schismatic dichotomy of culture and recreation, and the inferiority complex which the Arab individual has fallen victim to.

It was "Marchal Macluhan" from Canada who initiated the first fallacy of man's enslavement by the machine of mass media. In his two publications "The Global Village" and "The Media is the Message", Macluhan pointed out that man has managed to get the better of the machines he has invented throughout history except for this last novelty of his, known as the electronic wonder. For no longer is man quite able to keep good control over the extensive area and the unconfined power that such recent developments have put into his hands.

The electronic mass media output, if perfected both technologically and materially by a certain source, the latter is bound to dominear the world.

Next on the list, and through its native and hired agents who have been given easy open access to the managerial boards running the informational activities of the Third World's information machineries, the rich North has cunningly spread the fallacious belief in the neutrality of mass media information. Not only have they thereby cast away the pale with which indigenous culture can manage to protect itself, but they also have made it a well-established conviction that anything natively produced, however absurd it may sound, and anything imported from outside, can perfectly serve the purpose of culturation and entertainment. Both culture and entertainment have been as profitably and trivially valued as merchandise and mere cheap chattel.

And what is worse, a split has been indented to separate culture from entertainment. Both aspects have suffered as a result. For culture that is associatively and closely linked with the needs of the surrounding environment and then polished and refined will certainly be highly interesting and entertaining.

Finally, all that the impact of the West-imported or imposed fallacies have brought about in the Third World in general and in the Arab World, in particular, is the sad lack of confidence we have developed as regards our civilizational role as the real fighters against aggression, invasion and territory occupation. Paralysis even in the area of national security and self-defence has been the outcome.

Memorandum

By Osama El-Sherif

Honeymoon diary:

48 hours in Nairobi (5)

PERHAPS THE most intriguing incident that happened to my wife and I during our unpleasant stay in Nairobi airport was — strangely enough — with the press. Our travel agent finally made his call and destroyed all our hopes: "I tried my best," he said. "I called the highest-ranking official here and was turned down each time. You can't pass they told me. I am sorry."

So there it was. Our final effort was abandoned and after more than 36 hours in the airport of this remote country we had to think of a way to leave.

I was on my way to get some coffee when I saw some newspapers at a bookshop gazing at me. I stopped and bought two papers. One was the Kenya Times, a daily tabloid-sized paper with sensational news and bold headlines. As my wife and I sat sipping coffee I got an idea. Why not call the editor of this paper and see if he can pull some strings and help us out of our ordeal? I would do the same to a fellow journalist if I was back in Amman, I told myself. I picked up the phone and dialed. From far away came the voice of a man who identified himself to me as the paper's assistant editor. I told him our story and begged him to try to save our holiday by trying to call someone who can secure our entry. He was nice and said that he will call me again after an hour.

Meanwhile I made some checking with the airport's reservation office to see if my wife and I could depend on that last hope of ours: A Kenyan Air flight to Cairo that evening. "Yes there was a flight scheduled to leave this evening." I was told. "But it is not listed here." We tried to check with the company's office and were told that for some reason that flight was cancelled.

I dragged myself back to where my wife was and sat thinking of our plight. Our only hope to leave — in case all attempts had failed — has vanished into thin air. We had to do something fast or face the grim reality of staying for another two days, waiting for a flight to Cairo. At that point I decided to play all my cards and leave that place at any cost.

A lady travel agent, who sympathised with us, agreed to look into any possibility of leaving Nairobi that night. We had two options only: To fly to London or Paris and from there connect to a flight to Cairo. We agreed and made reservations to fly to Paris that night and then to Cairo in the morning.

My friend the journalist, called and said that he was still trying, but began asking me strange questions: "Did you call any other paper besides ours? Why is your paper called The Jerusalem Star? Why is it in Jordan and not Israel? Are you sure that you are here on honeymoon? Are you at war with Israel?" He went on and on and I was shocked. I kept asking him how this was relevant to my problem. "Are you writing a story about us?" I asked. He denied it, but I was sure he was. I told him that if he delayed his story for another day I would call him later that night and give him exclusive stuff that would make his story a good one. He agreed.

We took an Air France flight to Paris that night. Our nightmare was over and we were out of our 'prison'. It didn't matter where we were going as long as it was away from that place. I kept thinking of that opportunist reporter and how he saw a story in our ordeal, but this is the harsh rule of this profession. Would I do the same to him? I wondered.

Later when we arrived in Amman a letter from Kenya was waiting for me. It was from our lady friend who sent us a clipping from the Kenya Times. Our story was the main one on the front page: "Editor told go back home." ... the headline read. The story talked about us trying to get into Kenya: about Jerusalem being captured in 1967 instead of 1967; of myself being well known all over the world, according to Kenya's security officers; of us being on a political mission and other crazy things that were not true. It was bad, sensational and very yellow-type journalism. And what a way to end our honeymoon!

Ammar Khammash

Art as a 'non-marriage of cultures'

By Vanessa Batrouni

Special to The Star

THE MOST striking feature of Ammar Khammash's exhibition showing this week at the Alia Art Gallery is its uncompromising non-marriage of two cultures. In an unresolved clash of images, that together jarr the eye, we feast on hors d'oevres and dessert in the same mouthful, with gentle Jordanian landscapes neatly framed away behind their glass, sitting beside optic casualities of a typically American perception of an American way of life.

The gallery itself contributes to this fusion of incompatibles, for as a foil for a modern' exhibition its character is too careful: Tendrils of its personality edge onto the presentation, its carpeted decoration interior clashing violently with Ammar's supermarket basket that holds the programmes and the segments of vision of Safeway bottles and busy streets that are strung about its walls.

Ammar who has been studying in America for the past four years and has experienced another cultural extreme-India as well as the middle cultural ground of Jordan, makes no attempt to solder these exposures into any kind of unit. In fact he exhibits in the schizophrenic unrelationships they produce, content for his expressive talent to run along heterogeneous parallel lines.

Vocal

A vocal artist who is driven to make statements be they as yet unconcluded arguments, we catch his dialogue mid stream. The opening sentence is Jordan but his abrupt change of subject is as yet unfinished. He is hooking himself onto scientific facts to help answer his own questions in what is generally a very emotional response to his environment and the natural world about him. Yet these sharp angled directional changes reflect the artist and the fluidity of life in which he evolves.

Despite the incongruities, seeds of his recent experiments can be found in the compact but nervous landscapes. His play on sizes and longitudinal and lateral variations eventually bursts out of the conventional frames into more self asserting, anything goes canvases.

The rows of olive trees and colourful lines are almost a serialisation of nature, a serialisation which finds a more total expression compositionally in Safeway bottles and vegetable stalls.

Visual drug

Ammar says he was lured to the supermarkets galleries of colour and light he calls them, with an almost childlike fascination because of the drab grey car orientated surroundings in which he found himself. In such a world, the colourful 'universe' of the modern mall is a necessary visual drug. In these 'galleries of food' every can a work of art and every package designed to excite ownership.

But Ammar looks beyond their commercial value as commodities and, seeing them as beautiful objects, translates them into blobules of dancing colour. He does not find mass production offensive but rather uses repetition in his work as a rhythmic pulse, each time the image a little different, to build up his composition. He teases us with their worthlessness as goods if not as visual music, shelving his painted bottles away on separate canvas rolls.

Yet if they are not for sale as food they are for sale as works of art. The serialisation of the image of a hated Hong Kong doll, an image he 'fondled' he considers his most poetic work. He reverses the notion of a gross materialistic world devouring poetic natures by converting that materialism into poetic substances.

His success in such an experiment bears fruit in the four irregular canvases that make up Johnstone street, a "research into vision", a performance that explores the relativity of perspective in a cacophony of glass, car and neon. Although his one real analytical painting with its captured speed, movement and glances with dispersed focal points it is also his most American. For here is the overpowering influence of film, of dimensional panoramic vision where the viewer is drawn into the unreality created. Gone are all the barriers that divide viewer and viewed. The position of man as observer, distinct and protected is no longer secure, the world he has created is sucking him into its vortex.

His landscapes are a serialisation of nature

A film director with a special 'eye'

By Reem A.H. Yasin

Special to The Star

FEW FILM reviewers get the chance to see a film and interview its director in the same week. Fortunately, this week, I was among the lucky few. After seeing the film "Bastien Bastienne" (reviewed on p. 30) I was able to interview Mr. Michel Andrieu, director of the film, to discuss the film with him and to get to know some of his views on filmmaking.

Born in 1940, Michel Andrieu graduated from IDHEC film school. He has written several screenplays for television, some of them adaptations of literary works by Joseph Conrad, Edgar Allan Poe and Dolores Grassian. Mr. Andrieu had also made many documentary films before embarking on long feature films.

'Bastien Bastienne', shown during the French Film Week was his first feature film. It was made in 1978 and he was both writer and director for the work. Mr. Andrieu's second and latest film, "Le Voyage", is the first Franco-Egyptian co-production filmed between Paris and Cairo with the Egyptian actors Athar El-Hakim, Samir Sabri and Said Abdel Ghani.

'Darker romanticism'

In answer to an enquiry on the difference between his two films, Mr. Andrieu explained that the poetically romantic approach of his first film is also present in the second one, but in "Le Voyage" it is a 'darker romanticism' as he calls it. Otherwise the two film are totally different in time, place and subject. 'Le Voyage' is a modern thriller, a sort of political fiction, with action taking place in the present time.

At the centre of the adventure are two young people suffering the problems of youth their age all over the world. They are aimless, lost, trying to make contact with each other but crushing each other in the process. 'Trapped in a car full of explosives, with a bomb in their heads and a bomb under their feet', is how the director expresses his view of the film.

'The eye'

This led to a question on whether Mr. Andrieu believed that there is such a thing as a director's personal style or special technique of his own or does each film determine its own style and establish its own rules.

Mr. Andrieu insisted that a director must have a 'special eye' for things, what is called in French 'L'ecriture Cinematographique' (cinematic writing). He believes that eighty per cent of films produced lack this particular quality, which he calls 'the eye' and this results in what he terms as 'a big mish-mash of traditional films that do not express reality at all and do not bring anything to anybody.'

Michel Andrieu

I was naturally interested to know if Mr. Andrieu was at all familiar with our cinema and what he thought of it.

He is familiar with Egyptian cinema and divided it clearly into two groups: commercial films which he thinks too theatrical and very far from reality. The other more serious achievements, he thinks, are really good, especially films by the directors Barakat, Shadi Abdel Salam and Youssef Shahin. He particularly admires Shahin "for the way he expresses the social reality of Egypt" (as in 'Bab El Hadid') and his own personal reality as a director as in his autobiographical films 'Alexandria... Why?' and 'Egyptian Story' (all of which have been presented and reviewed in The Star). 'I think he is a real artist' says Andrieu of Egyptian director Youssef Shahin.

Suzanne in 'Bastien, Bastienne' with her own 'eye'

Finally comes the fundamental question about cinema: is it a means of education, entertainment, or simply artistic self-expression with no particular aim except art for its own sake...

To director Michel Andrieu "Cinema is a show, it is an art which has to be in some way entertaining. But through entertainment one expresses one's sensibility and touches the audience by making them laugh or cry." ...His film 'Bastien Bastienne' is a living proof of the truth of its director's statement.

The bosses take a turn to complain

IN AN article in The Star on 17 May 'Jordan's secretaries file their complaints' reporter Hiyam Asakrieh looked at the many problems suffered by secretaries in Jordan. This week she gives the bosses a chance to put their side.

MR MUHSEN SAED, General Manager of Albalmara Co. in Amman said that in the development of the relationship between the boss and the secretary, it can be the secretary who paves the way for problems. Unsuitable dresses, concentrated perfumes, specific sort of behaviour can all be a contributing factor. So he said considering that the boss is only human we cannot only blame him if he responds especially if he has business problems or personal problems with his wife. Mr Saed said that this can happen unconsciously.

"I have noticed that some girls coming for an interview concentrate on their appearances more than their qualifications. They show more interest in the type of manager than in the type of work," he said.

As for advertisement problem, he made the practical suggestion that companies should send a copy of any advertisement for secretaries wanted to the Department of Labour. If the department noticed that a company had repeated its advertisement several times they could send a representative to the company to find out the reasons.

Another boss in a private company gave us his explanation the conditions that could lead to unbusiness-like relation. "By the nature of business relations the boss only sees the favourable side of his secretary's personality. When he meets her she is always well dressed, cheerful, willing to help. She doesn't complain, argue or demand too much as his wife may do. Therefore he begins to make unfair comparisons between the two, which will be of course to the advantage of his secretary. In the end, he may start to think that he has made the wrong choice and should have married a nice, courteous girl like his secretary.

"I have a friend who divorced his wife because they were not happy together. Then he married his secretary. Later on, I have heard he divorced his second wife for the same reason. Thus he lost both a good wife and a good secretary.

"I would like to warn bosses that nice secretaries do not necessarily make nice wives, women are women at the end," he said.

One boss, was not convinced that some bosses prefer 'secretaries for pleasure' to 'secretaries for business'. "To find a good secretary is to find a treasure, it means long term rest and success. Her position is very sensitive and greatly affects the progress of the company. So I doubt that any sensible boss would sacrifice a good secretary for one for pleasure. This may happen at the beginning and only for a while, but afterwards the good secretary will surely win because priority, in the end, will be given to business," he said.

Personal problems

Another boss complained about the inability of secretaries to maintain the difference between personal matters and business matters and let their personal problems always affect business. This is be worse, he said, if the secretary is her parent's pet because then she expects every one to share her problems and treat her as her parents do. But at least, he said, such a secretary is not too dangerous. The dangerous one is the one, who misuses her authority for personal interest, who tells secrets to prove that she knows more than any one else and who goes far beyond her duties and many secretaries do this, he said

Many bosses complained that secretaries use the telephone for personal and sometimes silly calls. "She occupies the telephone for more than half an hour to talk to her friend about a party, a dress, a kind of make up etc. I once heard a secretary saying that if there was no telephone in her office she would stay at home," he said.

Entertainment

Another complained that just as some bosses advertise for secretaries without real need, some secretaries come for an interview without real intention to work.

"Once I reached an agreement with a secretary about salary and office hours, but at last she said she was unable to leave her first job. She said frankly I only wanted to find out how secretaries are paid in other companies and what privileges they have." Some even do it just as a form of entertainment, wasting their time and ours, he added.

Another complaint was that female secretaries usually change their jobs abruptly and for superficial reasons such as the location of the company, or the office furniture, without considering the lengthy experience they have gained from the company or how essential to it they have become.

One boss complained only about married secretaries: "They ask for leave almost daily, they always give priority to home matters, they are not willing to stay even for five minutes after office work even though they often come late in the morning." His advice to all married secretaries is either to have a part-time position or to stay at home for the sake of the family and the office.

Tea making

One boss commented on making tea and coffee issue. "I can't see anything wrong in the secretary making coffee or tea sometimes, especially if the office boy is outside. The office should be her second home and to be a hostess in it won't harm her. But he felt this should be left up to her at the end, as it would only be a favour from her if she does it. If she is unwilling it would be unfair of us to force her to it, he said.

One boss who doesn't trust female secretaries admitted that he employs a secretary for prestige only. "Female secretaries are not reliable but their presence in office is necessary for prestige so I only entrust mine with simple and unimportant duties," he said.

Employees

Employees also participated in complaining about secretaries, and in particular about secretaries who become a friend to the boss. One discontented employee described the situation as intolerable, he said. "In this case the company will no longer be a company, the boss will no longer be a boss, he will yield his authority willingly to his secretary especially those related to employees' affairs. At request by the employee, any increment on privilege will depend first on the secretary's feeling toward this employee, with no regard to his real need or worth

"What is worse is that her own duties will become another employee's duties and her mistakes will become an other poor employee's mistakes."

Some bosses and employees said that they prefer to have male secretaries as they are more serious, more reliable, and can follow up outside business.

Other bosses said that despite all these faults, they prefer females as secretaries because they are courteous, patient, and less ambitious in a way that can harm business. So it seems Jordan's bosses are no happier with their secretaries than the secretaries are with them

The alarming thing about Oxford

By Valerie Grove

IT IS a sunny May morning in Oxford and girls are everywhere.

Wherever you get women today, you get women's committees. The women's committee of the Oxford University Students' Union (not to be confused with the illustrious Oxford Union) has produced a report on Sexual Harassment.

From this, for the price of £1 you learn that 1.6 per cent of Oxford women have complained of being sexually harassed. "The mountains have laboured," said Miss Rachel Trickett, principal of St. Hugh's, "and brought forth a mouse."

In the days when women at Oxbridge were scarce and telephones scarcer, young men made advances by note. Antonia Fraser once described these notes: "Dear Miss Pakenham, I could not help noticing in the Bodleian Library yesterday that we share a taste for the medieval German bishoprics.

Young ladies then were invited to go brass-rubbing with friends of their brother from school. An invitation to tea a une meant serious romantic intentions.

But now it is all more like life, erotic possibilities abound and who can be surprised? The combination is irresistible: the age of optimum attractiveness, total irresponsibility, lavish opportunity and that perfect combination of sensual and cerebral interests. "Where the heart lies, there let the brain lie also..."

In what is easily Oxford's prettiest quad, St. Edmund Hall, sat a group of its prettiest women (the sexist observation was unavoidable) in the sunshine on the grass.

It was all quite absurd: the quad like a stage set, the young jocks passing by in their T-shirts and waving like an American campus movie. Here we strove to discuss the threat of the amorous don. Ah, here was a don: a benign grey figure across the quad, a cheery wave to the girls.

"Dr. Midgley!" they cried and we all leapt off the forbidden grass. "Oh, sexual harassment?" said Dr. Graham Midgley, college chaplain, "No, nobody has sexually harassed me at all, alas."

He had just been conducting a tutorial on Swift, he said, with both sexes of course, all about excreta and other Swiftian themes. Girls had moved into Teddy Hall with almost no fuss, he said; he thought them better at dealing with boys than vice versa.

And if women do have problems, Teddy Hall is one of the few colleges to appoint a woman specifically as residential confidante: she is Dr. Anne Taylor, a fellow in physiology and "strong on women's rights" according to Dr. Midgley. (It is one of the women's committee's more cogent suggestions that each college should provide a woman to whom girls can report.)

"Or they could come to see me as chaplain, with the secrecy of the confessional," he added. "If there really were a case of moral turpitude it would be a matter of dismissal.

"Though it's getting unsafe even to say 'what a pretty dress you're wearing,'" he said. "You ought to talk to some of our militants."

Alice Hart-Davis, second-year historian, told me cheerfully that her bright blue trousers with leopard-skin spots had elicited a "You do enjoy your clothes don't you!" from a male don only yesterday, and indeed, far from minding, it would be rotten to have such trousers ignored.

Alice Hart-Davis and friends

A nice pipe-smoking don whom I visit on Christ Church tells me he expects to have a fairly easy-going relationship with all his students and if she's socially confident, as most of his girl are, she'll know how to respond.

But there is a serious threat to the women in the University of Oxford. It does get a mention in this report, but only in a footnote on the number of women Fellows:

In two former women's colleges which are now mixed, it says, "the vast majority of recent appointments have gone to men." This generosity to men on the part of former women's strongholds has not been reciprocated: former male colleges do not appoint women dons when they become mixed.

This is the can of worms that should concern you, anonymous women of the OUSU Women's Collective.

It means that since the women's colleges have gone co-ed, far from aiding the women's cause, women are deprived of the plum academic jobs that formerly had to go to them.

It also means that the lively girls now apply first to men's colleges, undoing all the pioneering work that made Somerville and LMH academically level with the best men's colleges.

Over at Somerville, one of the remaining women-only colleges (women still choose to go there if they want to get a good night's sleep and get on with their work) I found Dr Catherine Duncan-Jones, Fellow in Engineering and also wife of the novelist and young fellow A. N. Wilson.

"Go to Magdalen, which is now mixed," she challenges, "and count the women Fellows. There are none. Nine former men's colleges are now mixed but have no women senior members. Then look at the women's colleges which are now mixed. St. Anne's and Lady Margaret Hall have appointed 9 and 11 new male fellows."

"What happens in former women's colleges is that the men take over the Junior Common Room. That's what the Oxford women's committee should be worrying about: why is there no woman president of a JCR in any mixed college."

(London Express Service)

Madeleine Hall with photographs of her stage-struck grandmother.

Chances Granny missed

By Glenys Roberts

MADELEINE HALL'S grandmother always regretted not going on the stage. Madeleine's 16-year-old cousin is determined to make a career of it. She has a place in the Italia Conti School.

The difference, according to Madeleine, is not one of talent but of the changing times. Her film script based on her own family experiences about women's expectations over the last 70 years — an average lifespan — has won her a £2000 prize to buy colour stock and the film is nearly completed.

Madeleine has been filming in D.H. Lawrence country largely unspoiled with its original miner's kitchens — with an all-girl crew of six. She has eaten into £600 of her savings to make black and white flashbacks starring her sister as her grandmother.

"These became more ambitious than I had realized when it came to borrowing a 1928 Riley and staging a wedding sequence with non-professional locals in the little church mentioned in The Rainbow."

Madeleine hopes that the finished product will be shown on television before making the rounds of schools and colleges.

The point is that people theorise every day about women's lot, but just by looking at four generations of one family you have a real record of how ideas have changed in England since before the First World War.

Madeleine's great-grandmother was married to a collimner in Nottinghamshire who was invalided out of the mines because of malaria contracted during the war. His hobby in his enforced retirement was the education of his daughter Irene — Madeleine's grandmother.

"There were two sorts of miner," her gran-daughter says, "the ones who took the attitude that what's good enough for me is good enough for you and the others who said give the kids a chance to get out of the mines."

Irene won a scholarship to grammar school and left when she was 15 but carried on taking singing lessons. The family were very poor but her teacher agreed to take her for free. Irene wanted to be Jeanette MacDonald or Deanna Durbin.

When she was 16, she entered a competition in London for the Golden Voice of Great Britain sponsored by the old News Chronicle and Gaumont Pictures and came fourth. She auditioned with D'Oyly Carte and was told to come back when she was older.

Stigma

"The two problems in London were class and morals," says Madeleine. "She felt it was a stigma to be working class, she had nothing to wear and she didn't know how to behave.

"Then, when she was in the chorus of the pantomime in the 1930s she was shocked by the way the other girls carried on with their admirers.

"Her background had made her very romantic. She used to watch films like 42nd Street. She thought you could be spotted overnight and whisked to fame if you had talent. The reality of the theatre was too depressing."

While encouraging her on the one hand, her father had also been very protective. When she was 19, going out with the man she was to marry, she had to be home by 9.30 p.m.

"It is a question of how you value a woman's life," says Madeleine. "She thought her value was in terms of children. She wasn't at all politically aware." She married the boyfriend, who worked in a sweetshop, and had three children including Madeleine's mother Anne.

Anne Hall, who is now 42, never married but had four children nevertheless. Their father is a local journalist who lives separately. Madeleine is the eldest at 24.

When Anne was 26, with her youngest child just three, in 1969 she took a teacher's training course which changed her life. She now teaches English, sex education and social studies in Derbyshire.

Madeleine's Aunt Jane is even more politically committed — a staunch feminist, a counsellor with a Victim Support Scheme, who has vowed never to marry or live with a man.

Madeleine herself lives just behind Oxford Street with Adrian Shergold, who runs the Soho Poly. She says she plans never to have children.

She has wanted to be a filmmaker since she was 12 but even in 1972 her grammar school tried to persuade her to lower her sights and be a librarian.

She went to art school for a year and then came down to London five years ago with a boyfriend to work as a graphic designer.

"It was then that I identified with my grandmother. Even now people in Matlock don't understand why I wanted to leave.

"When Sarah, my cousin, got her place in drama school the story really struck me.

"In the first scene of the film, Granny opens a letter from Sarah telling her about her ambitions. Then, while she is making the tea, doing the washing, just living a normal day, she talks to her husband Bill and my mother Anne about her own experiences.

"I was quite surprised how strongly she felt when she came to the bit about the sex lives of chorus girls.

"My grandmother never gave up her love of the stage. She has been in amateur dramatics all her life but she has always felt guilty for not taking it up professionally. She felt she had let her father down."

London Express Service

Why Write?

"WHY WRITE?" was given as a speaking title to American author John Updike at an Adelaide South Australia Festival of Arts. It gave him the opportunity to set a record of brevity there in treating the subject by asking, in turn, "Why not?" and then sitting down.

We who write get asked this question from time to time and some of us take the time to set down on paper a description of the forces that motivate us in the action of writing. But, I must admit, that when asked face to face, I sometimes take the easy way out and answer, "For the money." And surprisingly, this response satisfies a number of people. It is not the real answer because a number of writers who were truly gifted and whose works subsequently became classics often wrote for years before they were alloted even a modicum of recompense or recognition.

Recognition is one of a complex of reasons that drive the writer to take up pen and slave to fill up page after page. He wants to have his works read by the individuals that are waiting out there to pick up the book or article in a magazine, or short verse, or columne in a newspaper and know that he has produced this. And he does not stint on the efforts that he must go through to achieve this end.

The amount of energy needed to write is often considerable even though it might look deceptively facile to those who have not tried it. All that is required to engage in this activity is a typewriter and some paper, or some paper and a pen, or pencil and writing tablet, or a crayon or eye-liner stick and a paper bag. Then the writer must sit down alone and begin to write, for writing is a lonely business. It can only be done by one person in solitude, so that he or she may gather up thoughts and scenes that dwell within their inner minds and then convert them into words and place them upon this empty paper that at times appears more desolate than the vast expanses of sterile sand composing the desert.

It is then that the words are metamorphosed from tiny ink scratches to something akin to stones, heavy and cumbersome, that the writer-builder must use to construct his edifice. He must select them from the vast heap of other stones, choosing only the correct ones, and then shape them, polish them, carry them to their place and arrange them with the other stone-words to see if they are suitable. And if they aren't then they must be thrown back on the heap and another search done.

Why write? Updike said, "As soon ask, Why rivet? Because a number of personal accidents drift us toward the occupation of riveter, which pre-exists, and, most importantly, the riveting-gun exists, and we love it." Updike loves his pencil and so he writes. Flaubert, in a letter to Louise Colet, said, "I love my work with a love that is frenzied and perverted, as an ascetic loves the hair shirt that scratches his belly." When he couldn't write he hated himself and when he could, it moved him to tears. "I had been moved by my own writing; the emotion I had conceived, the phrase that rendered it, and satisfaction of having found the phrase — all were causing me to experience the most exquisite pleasure."

To me, not writing is like being underwater, holding my breathe until my lungs want to burst and not knowing if I can make it to the surface. Writing is the cool fresh air rushing into my lungs.

Would you believe it?

A TYRE retread salesman was more than five million dollars richer yesterday because of confusion about filling in a lottery ticket.

Donald Drown, 52, of Woburn, Massachusetts, won $5,205-308, in the Massachusetts state lottery from two tickets, one of which he bought after wrongly thinking he had made a mistake while filling in the first.

Asked if he would keep his job, Drown said: "Oh, definitely. That was the first thing my boss asked me when I called him. I've got 23 years in the company."

BRITONS watch more television daily than anyone else in Europe and most of them want to watch even more, says a survey by the British Consummers' Association.

A British budget decision to tax fast food could spell doom for a traditional staple of the British working class — fish and chips. Trade spokesmen said yesterday the government's 15 per cent VAT move could mean closure for many of Britain's 12,000 surviving "chippies".

Exhibitions

The **Alia Art Gallery** presents **'Segments of Vision'**, an exhibition by **Ammar Khammash.**

Continues until Sunday 10 June

The **French Cultural Centre** presents the exhibition **'La Revolution Francaise'**.

Thursday 7 June.

Films

The **French Cultural Centre** presents **'Le Rapace'**, a 1968 film by Robert Enrico, starring Lino Ventura and Xavier Marc.

Thursday 7 and Saturday 9 June at 7.45 pm.

'Pattes Blanches', a 1949 film by **Jean Gremillon**, starring Suzy Delair and Fernand Ledoux.

Tuesday 12 June at 7.45 pm.

The **American Centre** presents **'The National Football League's Best Ever Quarterbacks** (46 minutes).

Monday 11 June at 4.00 pm and 8.00 pm.

Archaeology trip

The **Friends of Archaeology** are planning a trip to the pottery neolithic site of **Er-Ruman.** Dr. Zaidain Kafafi, Professor of Archaeology at Yarmouk University and director of excavations at the site, will lead the trip.

Meet at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre at 8.30 am on Saturday 9 June, expect to be back in Amman by noon.

● **Mrs Shakuntala Devi** of India multiplied 7, 686, 369, 774, 870 by 2, 465, 099, 745 in her head to make 18, 947, 668, 177, 995, 426, 773, 750. It took 26 seconds.

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Tom Sawyer continues his adventures in Amman

By Vanessa Batrouni
Special to The Star

● Tom Sawyer, the boy adventurer of classic literature will be reliving his escapades in the International Community School's playground this Wednesday and Thursday evening. ICS headmaster **Mr. Trevor Clare** told The Star in an exclusive interview that Tom Sawyer was the end product of a revitalised drama year. He said that since drama teacher Mrs. Edwina Issa had joined the staff in September 1983, the school's drama course had blossomed into an educationally advantageous and creative programme.

A specialist in drama and education Mrs. Edwina Issa graduated from St. George's College Institute of Durham and after a brief spell teaching in a middle school was seconded to Newcastle University working under the famous Dorothy Heathcote. She cites drama education as being diagnostic — it is a 'no penalty' area for language, prognostic — problems of behaviour can be recognised long before they reach the classroom, theraputicin overcoming cultural phobias and an important interactive social experience for children that overrides class and culture.

Trevor Clare maintains that in a school like the ICS, which is a mixed culture school of 31 different nationalities, an educational arena such as drama is essential. He believes that a project like Tom Sawyer, although it can cut fiercely into the school term, brings the children together with a common purpose as well as being of supreme linguistic benefit, words in songs and dialogue being repeated in an enjoyable way.

Tania Yadige

Mark Fenwick

The children also learns to co-operate not only with their teachers but also with their classmates. And for some children it fills a vacuum in a limited drama background and gives them a whole new repetoire of movement.

Work on Tom Sawyer began towards the end of April half way through the term. It was chosen out of three options for its potential in using a large number of children. In fact all the children in the top three age groups are involved actively on stage or instrumentally whilst various departments have co-ordinated and contributed to the production.

Mr Trevor Clare adds that they have been fortunate in having a full time music teacher Miss **Cathy Simmons** who has dealt with the playing and teaching of songs and score. Miss Simmons says the score is fairly basic and simply written for piano and voice. She and a student will play the accompaniment and for more interest she has added other instruments — flute, violin, melodica and percussion all of which will be played by children from the school.

Owing to limited space, the show will be staged outside and this, Miss Simmons says, has caused their only problem as outside the voices are dispersed and carried away. This has been overcome to a certain extent by outdoor rehearsals and may be eradicated completely with a simple microphone system.

The teachers' enthusiasm and hard work has been matched by that of the children whose appetite was considerably whetted by the current televised serial of Tom Sawyer. Unprompted, they have been rifling the library for books thus opening up a new area of literature for themselves.

The two soloists **Tania Yadige** who plays Aunt Polly "a mean character" she says "with a soft heart" and **Mark Fenwick**, who plays Tom Sawyer, and strongly identifies with the boy hero, were both nervous at first and a little wary of all the words they had to learn. But are now they told The Star they are having good fun working with their friends and Mark says the music is catchy and nice.

Off to adventure

* * * * *

Staff at The Jerusalem Star have decided that freelancer **Ersilia Moreno Kiswani** deserves this month's Star reporter award. At 7.00 pm last Tuesday Ersilia filed a story from the French Cultural Centre. On Wednesday she gave birth to a healthy 3.3 kilogramme baby boy. Ersilia and husband **Hani** have named the baby **Rasheed** after his grandfather, and Star staff who have seen him say he is keeping up the newspaper's tradition of beautiful babies.

* * * * *

● Ramadan is usually a time for slowing down, but over at the Royal Cultural Centre it has produced a burst of local theatrical activity for the entire month.

* * * * *

Nabil Sawalha

* * * * *

Parents facing the school holidays should be grateful as there is particular emphasis on productions for children.

Yarmouk University has already presented a local play, and on Saturday and Sunday 16 and 17 June there will be performances by the centre's folk dance group.

From Sunday 17 June until Thursday 21 June there will be morning performances of 'Hiritna', a play for children directed by **Na'eem Haddadin.**

From Tuesday 19 June until Saturday 30 June, the adults have a turn with a play produced by **Hani Snobar.** Then its back to the children with a morning long puppet show directed by **Nabil Sawalha.**

* * * * *

Retiring president Mrs. Pamela Dosch and honorary president Mrs Maria Viets welcome Mrs Angelena Young to her new job.

Good food, good deeds from American women of Amman

● The American Women of Amman (AWA) met on Monday in the garden of the American Ambassador to install their newly elected officers for the year 1984-1985. After two years at the head of the group, outgoing President, **Mrs. Pamela Dosch,** handed the gavel of office to **Mrs. Angelena Young.** Stepping into the job of Vice President was **Mrs. Carolyn Clark, Mrs. Cynthia Olson** took over as Secretary, while **Mrs. Ianthe Veeder** retained her position as Treasurer.

At the same meeting, the AWA began pre-publication sales of its new cookbook, the per copy price of JD 3.500 will continue through the summer until publication in September when the price will be JD 4.00.

Mrs. Jean Annah, head of the Cookbook Committee, said that the ladies had been working on this fourth cookbook which has the title Sahtein wa Hana, for over a year. Recipes have been contributed by the membership, from family favourites that are tried and tested.

Past cookbooks such as the Ahlan and Sahtein have whetted appetites for more. In the new book the usual section on Arabic cooking has been updated and expanded.

The cover design, artwork and editing are done entirely by members of AWA. A substantial share of the proceeds of this fund-raiser help support Community Action projects of the AWA.

If you want more information about the cookbook, contact Mrs. Lisa Sieg on Tel 662964

The AWA also took the chance to preport on 1983-84 activities. During the year the community Action Committee reviewed a large number of needy projects which ultimately received about JD 4000 in material assistance. Included were two scholarships to women at the University of Jordan, and support for trainees who are travelling to the US to further their studies in working with the mentally handicapped.

Committee Chairlady, **Karen Asfour** said that other donations included food supplements to the Sister Teresa House of Peace and St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, a typewriter each to the Blind School, Al-Hussein Society and the Blind Society, and support for a project in the Baq'aa Refugee Camp to cover the sewerage system to name just a few.

Outgoing president Pamela Dosch thanked members of the committee and the Jordanian and International Communities for their generous support in time, talent and money for our fund-raising projects throughout the year, without which the AWA would not be able to help so many less fortunate.

* * * * *

I remain unrepentant about championing machine-crushed cottons and will continue to enthuse about pure wools and linens. But even as I sit writing this, I know that my 100 per cent linen skirt is becoming even more rumpled, that my cotton cardigan will soon bag at the elbows, and that the only thing I am confident will hold up to a day's wear is my white satin shirt. It's made of 100 per cent oil.

(London Express Service)

Striking oil . . .

By Liz Smith

"I WOULDN'T be seen dead wearing synthetics myself," people say brazenly to Christopher Hogg when they learn he is chairman of Courtaulds.

Such prejudices he simply dismisses as ignorance. "They stand there proudly telling me this, with their legs encased in nylon, their shirts are polycotton, their jacket has an acetate lining," he says, "and their bodies are probably held in all over the place with elastomerics."

As his company's best-known acrylic, Courtelle, celebrates its 25th anniversary this year Chris Hogg is confident that its demand in the fashion world is greater than ever.

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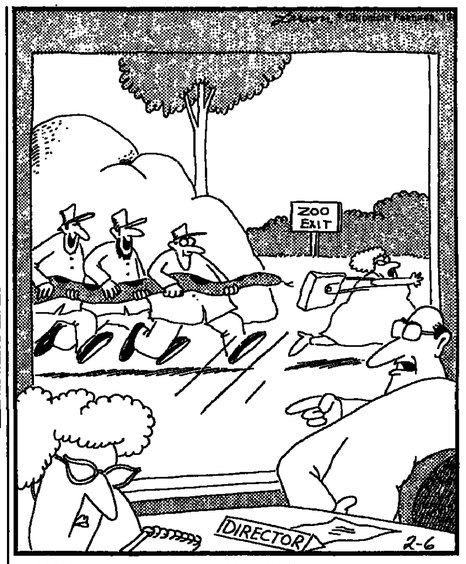
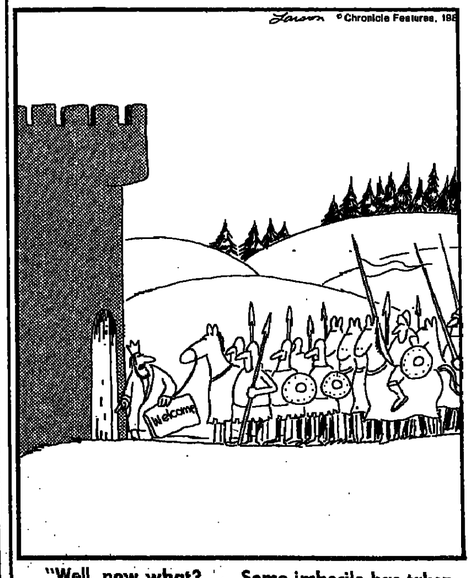


"Take another memo, Miss Wilkens . . . I want to see all reptile personnel in my office first thing tomorrow morning!"

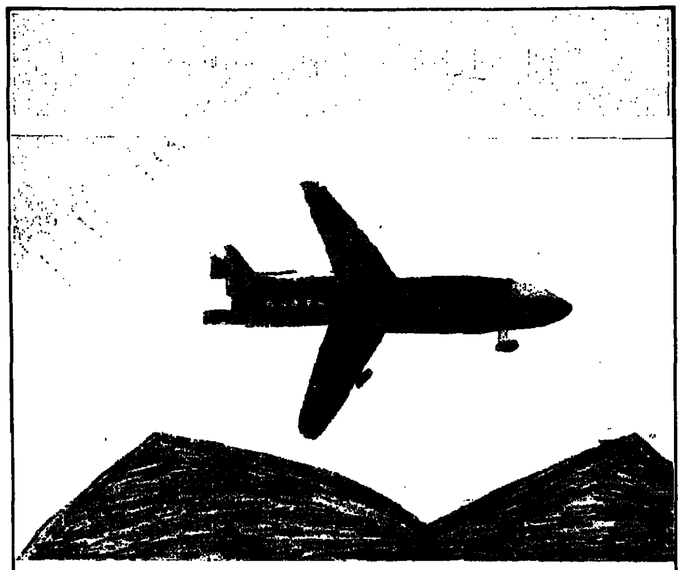
The Far Side

By GARY LARSON



"Well, now what? . . . Some imbecile has taken the key from under the mat."

Star kids



This week, Ashraf Musallam sent this beautiful picture to **Star Kids**. Ashraf is in the 6th grade and attends Terra Santa College. Thank you Ashraf and waiting for more contributions.

Send your pictures, stories and jokes for Star Kids, Jerusalem Star, P.O. Box 5081, Jerusalem. Children whose material is published will receive a Jerusalem Star T-Shirt. So don't forget to print your name, age, school, P.O. Box number and size (small, medium or large).

Grandmother's Tales

Nepotism

By Hamdan Al-Haj

One night, grandmother was sitting in her room. Then all her grandchildren rushed into her room and sat around her asking her to tell them a nice story of hers.

"Tonight, I am not going to tell you a story, but an incident that happened with me once and I couldn't forget," said the grandmother.

"When I was a little girl, no older than you are now, my father and I went to the far city — and my father took me to the zoo," said the grandmother. Her grandchildren gathered closer round her, fascinated at the thought of actually being at such a place.

"I saw giraffes, with their long and graceful necks, tigers with their fierce and cunning footing, camels with their funny humps and monkeys playfully jumping about. But what fascinated me most were the lions," continued the grandmother, lowering her voice.

"How were they?" cried the boys.

"The lion is well known to be the King of the Jungles, and what a magnificent and terrifying king he is. Yet, he is different where his family is concerned. That morning, I observed his three wives coming up to him and nodded as if greeting him and saying 'Good Morning.' Then they left him sitting where he was," added the grandmother.

"I was curious to find out where those three elegant lionesses were going to, so I followed their footsteps." The grandmother was silent for a moment and then went on:

"They reached a spot where there were three huge chunks of raw meat. I expected them to fight on which chunk to choose, but they surprised me by approaching the meat very quietly and each picked up a chunk with her mouth," said the grandmother.

"Did they eat the meat?" asked the children.

"I'm sure that they were hungry, but they didn't take a bite. They walked back to where their husband, the king, was sitting. As soon as they were in front of him, they dropped the meat on the ground and waited. The lion took some bites from the first chunk of meat, then moved on to take some from the second and then the third. Once doing so, he looked at the three lionesses as if to say "Thank You," said the grandmother.

"Did the lionesses then eat the rest of the meat?" asked the curious children.

"No. The three lionesses then elegantly approached the remaining meat and once again picked them up by their mouths. Then they walked away. I kept watching them to see where they were going. They reached a den, and that is where I saw their little cubs, fiskily waiting for their breakfast," went on the grandmother.

"The lionesses put the meat in front of their cubs and watched on while the little ones filled their little tummies. Once the cubs had had enough and headed towards their playing site, the mothers picked the meat up for another time and entered the den, where they could enjoy their breakfast in peace and quiet," said the grandmother.

"Is that all," asked the boys, somewhat disappointed.

"No, that is not all, you see, this lion and his family taught me a lesson. If such peace and tranquility can exist among the animal race, especially among the species of animals known for their fierce and mean brutality, then what prevents such a thing to occur among human being," said the grandmother.

Oddities

Ghostly Glider

WHAT MAKES this animal so unusual that scientists had to give it its own unique classification?

It's a soft, furry mammal that lives in trees and is found only in the tropical rain forests of Southeast Asia. It can glide, bird-like, through the air for distances of over 200 feet, but it is helpless on the ground.

The common name for this creature is the Latin word for "spirits of the dead," terrifying ghosts that lurked in flames and haunted houses. The name may have derived from a long-held superstition that these creatures were, in fact, malicious ghosts. On the Philippine island of Bohol, this belief actually saved the animals from extinction. When the forests there were cleared, the natives insisted that the trees in which the creatures lived be spared — fearing that if they were not, the outraged "ghosts" would revenge the loss of their homes by wreaking havoc.

it's a record

461

From the Guinness Book of Records compiled by Norris McWhirter

You cannot put a fire out

You cannot put a Fire out –
A Thing that can Ignite.
Can go, itself, without a Fan –
Upon the slowest night –

You cannot fold a flood –
And put it in a drawer –
Because the Winds would find it out –
And tell your cedar floor –

Emily Dickinson

Intimate Star casts

By Henry Arnold

Week commencing 7th June, 1984

CAPRICORN — December 22nd to January 19th

Be firm this week, and don't allow others to urge you towards a doubtful project. Plain sailing for most of the coming week, with conditions most favourable for creative activities. You should make some very good progress with a secret ambition of yours, and people around you will be in very high spirits. There could be a very pleasant development where an affair of the heart is concerned, and a younger person's co-operation should please you.

AQUARIUS — January 20th to February 18th

Quite a fair amount of travel and fresh faces seem to be indicated for this coming week, and there will not be very much time to relax. There is a lot to look forward to in a romantic partnership with a member of the opposite sex, whose initial could be 'C' or 'G' who is of average height. Around mid-week, the indications are that you could receive a most unexpected invitation to a party or similar social event.

PISCES — February 19th to March 20th

An unexpected gain could come your way, which could well carry future gains. There are encouraging prospects during the coming week, if you exercise your imagination and take a flexible attitude. If a domestic difficulty is to be settled once and for all, you must be firm and not allow sentiment to intervene. You can now afford to be optimistic about a member of the opposite sex, and patience will be rewarded.

ARIES — March 21st to April 20th

During this coming week, the indications are that you should find home plans that you may have had in mind for some time past, turn out most successful, with greater achievements than you had ever hoped for. In your working life, you should take care not to become too involved in other people's problems, or an unpleasant atmosphere could very easily arise. Quite a lot of time and effort will be saved if you try to anticipate the moves made by a relative.

TAURUS — April 21st to May 20th

Where your working life is concerned, you would be very well advised to try to curb your impatience and haste during this coming week, and allow a colleague to catch up. Your financial position should be quite good during this coming week, due to the fact that a small windfall may come your way, but this does not mean that you can spend rashly on things which you do not really need. Health should be satisfactory.

GEMINI — May 21st to June 20th

You may find during this coming week, that you will need to use a little flattery to gain the co-operation of someone who is very important to you. A friend with influence should show willingness to help you with a cherished ambition. At home, you may find that you will need to be very firm when coping with an elderly member of the family who is trying to interfere with your affairs, even though they may think they are trying to help you.

CANCER — June 21st to July 21st

Try something new, for this is a very good week which could produce very pleasing results, which could benefit you in the future. A romantic attachment which you had been rather doubtful about should grow stronger now, and promises to bring you a lot of future happiness. A family obligation should be lifted now, giving you much more time for relaxation. There should be something extra to spend towards the weekend.

LEO — July 22nd to August 21st

All the indications are that you will meet someone during this week, whom you will admire greatly, and will want to see again, and this could well be the beginning of a lasting friendship. Where your working life is concerned, you will need to concentrate a little more if you don't want to fall behind. It will be in your interests to act independently during this coming week, as aspects are good for a new venture.

VIRGO — August 22nd to September 21st

You will probably be facing some unfamiliar situations during this week, but you will find that luck should be on your side. The coming week should hold considerable significance for you, but beware of letting your heart rule your head, as this would not be wise. An exciting proposition could be made to you some time during this week, so don't allow anyone to dampen your enthusiasm.

LIBRA — September 22nd to October 22nd

This should prove to be a week of exceptional variety and interest, both businesswise and socially. Towards the middle of the week, you could receive a letter or message which will put your mind at ease regarding the health of a dear one. You would be very well advised to take note of a partner's realistic approach to a new venture. You will feel eager to break away from the usual routine and make a start on a new project, but it would be better to wait a while.

SCORPIO — October 23rd to November 21st

Opportunities for progress should come your way during this coming week, for you will come into contact with quite a few influential people who will be very useful to you. What seems at first a real bargain, may carry unexpected snags, so look before you leap. An exceptionally full week is indicated for you, but try your level best to avoid arguments with relatives who could try to stir up friction.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22nd to December 20th

Some important financial issues will be raised, and it may take quite a lot of time and thought to work things out satisfactorily. Spare time activities and social life should prove to be especially enjoyable and successful this week. You should make certain of your feelings before committing yourself as far as your romantic life is concerned, this week, or you may easily find yourself in an awkward situation.

Birthday Information Charts

Monday 11 June

Birthday Greetings to You. There will be good news concerning a journey which you had been planning to make within the next few weeks — this should come your way, so start to make definite arrangements. Also, it seems that you will have an exciting holiday period with a group of very pleasant people.

Where your romantic life is concerned, don't feel neglected, your partner will probably have to put in some extra work. Remember they are thinking only of you and before your next anniversary you should feel much happier and satisfied in this direction.

Your social life could be quite hectic. During the autumn months, there could be lots of parties and gatherings, whilst the winter months may see you taking an active part in an outdoor hobby.

Tuesday 12 June

Birthday Greetings to You. The past twelve months have been somewhat a period of uncertainty for you, but by this time next year, you will be feeling much more settled and secure.

By September, a person you know who has been rather a problem in the past will surprisingly become a lot more agreeable. This should play a very large part in helping affairs in the home to be more stable than in the last two years.

An outstanding problem will be solved during the late winter, owing to a small windfall and you will be able to treat yourself a little more, but be careful of rash spending.

Work-wise, there could be a change which should mean an improvement for you in several ways, a colleague may give you some very sound advice in connection with your work.

Wednesday 13 June

Birthday Greetings to You. There will be some extremely good news about your financial position within a very short time from now. This will help you to forget any money worries which you have had during the past few months. Health, which may have been slightly up and down during the past year should now start to show signs of improvement.

You may have the opportunity to travel quite a distance towards the end of November — do not rush into hasty decisions regarding this, and view it from all directions. The advice of someone near to you with greater experience could be a tremendous help in this matter.

Your year ahead in the social field will be extremely exciting, but do not forget or neglect the older members around you. Romance of a high nature is clearly indicated within the next few months, and for those of you who are already married, quite a deal of happiness is in store.

Sunday 10 June

Birthday Greetings to You. It could be that you are missing a lot of opportunity that comes your way by giving too much attention to the small and unimportant details. You should try to sort out just what calls for most of your time and what can safely be put aside. In this way, the year ahead could be one of real progress and advancement.

At home, some much delayed improvements or repairs will be taking up a great deal of your time and energy around the winter period. This could prove to be a little expensive, but by cutting down in other respects, you will be extremely glad that you have finally got down to it, and it will be well worth your while.

For the single ones amongst you, there are very strong signs of engagements or even marriage before your next anniversary.

Birthday Greetings to You. This coming year should be quite a lot better than the one you have just gone through. An elderly relative could be a little fretful, and try to interfere somewhat in your plans. Do not let this dishcarten you, go ahead as you intended, and all will go well. Businesswise, you could be in line for promotion — your work is being noted, and by October, you should have an approach from someone in authority.

Do not try to do everything single-handed where your home life is concerned, there are others around you eager to help if you will only ask. In fact, an interesting suggestion should fire you with ambition and inspiration.

Activities in the social field will widen considerably and there will be no lack of invitations for you. As well as new friendships you make, old friendships will prove themselves to be very well worthwhile.

Birthday Greetings to You. Life at home should become far more stable than it has been for some time past. There has been rather a difficult relative around you who should become far more agreeable in the future, and it seems that you will spend some very happy times with this person.

There will be a great deal of travelling during the coming twelve months, and on several occasions you maybe able to combine business with pleasure. Holiday arrangements may have to be made to suit another person, but this could be well worthwhile and turn out to be the holiday of a life time.

Where your social life is concerned, you may be asked to do some organising and your ideas should please those around you. This should be a very happy year for you, and by your next anniversary you should be looking forward to the future with great eagerness.

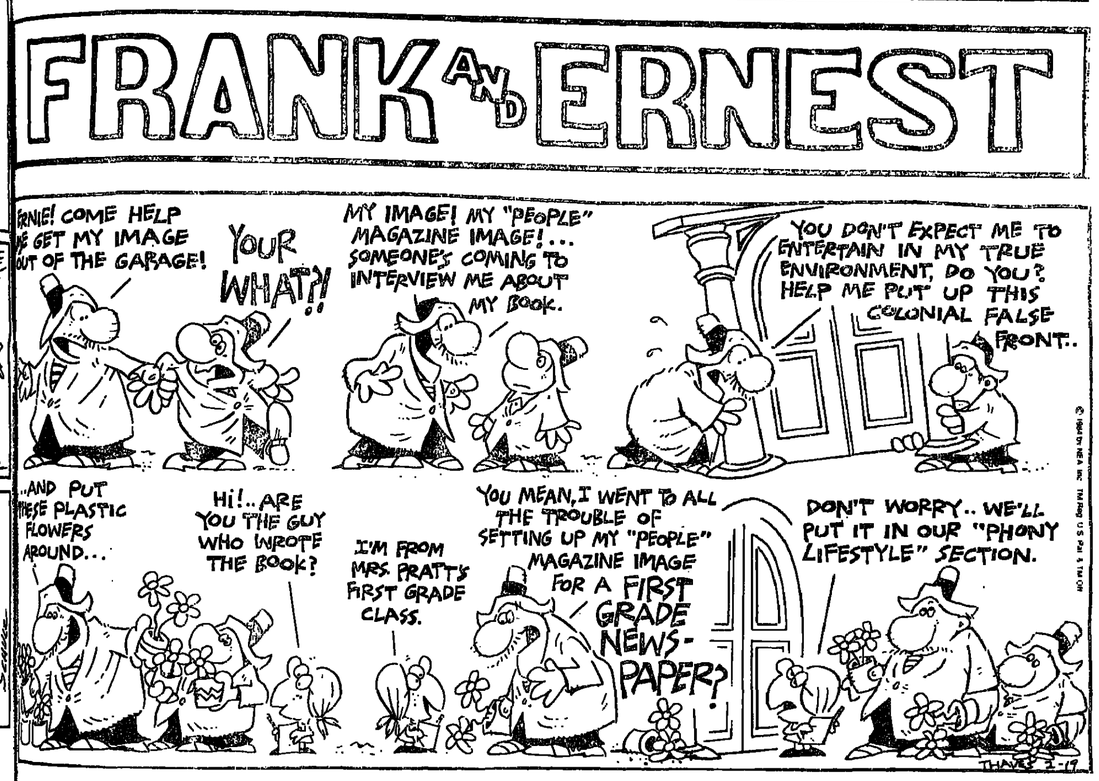
Birthday Greetings to You. Where your social life is concerned, an introduction in the next few months could lead to a new circle of friends for you, and through this new interest during the autumn months, you could find yourself taking part in sporting activities with a great amount of success.

A lot of time will be taken up with arrangements regarding a journey of a relative or a very close friend who will be going away for quite some time. There will be short, but frequent trips for you, but in connection with business.

An interest which has been merely a hobby should suddenly become very remunerative — this will delight you, and you will feel that your efforts have not been in vain.

Those who are single amongst you could worry slightly where romance is concerned, regarding the choice of a partner, but you will soon know you have chosen wisely.

PEANUTS
featuring
"Good ol' CharlieBrown"
by SCHULZ
© 1984 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.
CRASH!
TINKLE!
CLINK!
CRACK!
CLINK!
CRACK!
CLINK!
4-8
SORRY... I THOUGHT YOU HAD CLEARED AWAY YOUR BREAKFAST DISHES...
SNAKE!! ™
Tales by SOLS
GET A GRIP ON THE GEAR LEVER!!
LOOK OUT! PUT YOUR FOOT ON THE BRAKE!!
DON'T TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF THE WHEEL!!
GOOD GRIEF! AHHHH
3-19-84
YOU JUST MISSED THE GUY ON THE BIKE!!
©SALISBURY-1984 Distributed by NEA, Inc.
WHAT'S THAT DIN, ROO?
PUT THE CLUTCH
JUST SNAKE HAVING A NIGHTMARE DRIVING LESSON.
AHHHHH


FRANK AND ERNEST
ERNIE! COME HELP ME GET MY IMAGE OUT OF THE GARAGE!
YOUR WHAT?!
MY IMAGE! MY "PEOPLE" MAGAZINE IMAGE!... SOMEONE'S COMING TO INTERVIEW ME ABOUT MY BOOK.
YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO ENTERTAIN IN MY TRUE ENVIRONMENT, DO YOU? HELP ME PUT UP THIS COLONIAL FALSE FRONT..
..AND PUT THESE PLASTIC FLOWERS AROUND...
Hi!.. ARE YOU THE GUY WHO WROTE THE BOOK?
I'M FROM MRS. PRATT'S FIRST GRADE CLASS.
YOU MEAN, I WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF SETTING UP MY "PEOPLE" MAGAZINE IMAGE FOR A FIRST GRADE NEWS-PAPER?
DON'T WORRY.. WE'LL PUT IT IN OUR "PHONY LIFESTYLE" SECTION.
THAVES 3-17

GARFIELD
SMACK
LET'S PLAY!
LEAVE ME ALONE, GARFIELD
LET'S PLAY! LET'S PLAY!
OH, OKAY, WE'LL PLAY
TICKLE! TICKLE! TICKLE! TICKLE!
HA! HA! HEE! HO! HEE! HEE!
OUCH!
JIM DAVIS
3-11
I'M THROUGH PLAYING NOW
© 1984 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

The cinema corner

'Bastien Bastienne'

Michel Andrieu's lost paradise

A SILENT IDYLLIC world of beauty and innocence, an enchanted landscape where Nature is serenely magnificent, an atmosphere that is too good to last... a paradise that is soon to be lost. This, in short, is Michel Andrieu's film, "Bastien Bastienne", set in a bewitchingly tranquil domain not far from the raging front of war in the year 1915.

The title of the film is that of an opera by Mozart, which he wrote when he was only twelve, the same age as the children in the film. Eric, Yves and Jean-Charles, the young heroes of the film are on the verge of puberty, with all the innocence of childhood groping their way into the world of adolescence, seeing the adult world through infantile fantasies and childish dreams.

The three boys spend their time rehearsing Mozart's opera and actually believing and living in the world of its characters, singing their way magnificently through the story of Bastien (the young lover) Bastienne (his beloved) and the magician who eventually brings them together by a touch of his wand.

Thus living in this make-believe world, the children are unaware of the imminent danger of war just off the secluded estate on which they are living with their mothers. It is only through the intermittant and far of sounds of bombing that we are reminded that outside this utterly silent dreamworld there is a horrible war going on.

But as the film progresses, these ominous sounds become louder and more frequent until they finally break the spell and shatter the children's world. They are forced to leave the house they loved so much and their first performance of the play they had so labouriously rehearsed is to be their last.

The children are the main theme of the film but they are not its only characters. There are their mothers, two sisters in law: One (Suzanne) has lost her husband in the war and the other (Catherine) is being unfaithful to the husband still in combat. The two women share a love-hate relationship, all part of the complicated adult world that the children are about to enter.

Apart from the two ladies of the manor, there are two servants. The younger housemaid, Marie, has a cheerful and sunny character (the only optimistic view of adult life in the film), and the old housekeeper who is a remnant of a decadent past age (a previous century that has ended with the war). That is why she is left behind (or rather she willingly stays on) in the old house when everybody else leaves at the end of the film.

With very little action, and even less dialogue, the director of the film (interviewed on p. 21) managed to involve us deeply in an atmosphere where we can actually 'hear' the silence of the night, 'feel' the music and 'sense' the freshness of the air.

The sounds of nature are physically present in the film: the humming of the bees, the rippling of the water, the rustling of the leaves are all there making us sensually aware of the world presented to us on the screen.

The young actor playing "Bastien"

The slow rhythm of the film, I think, is deliberate. The uneventfulness of the narrative where nothing happens, the almost total silence where even dialogue would be an intrusion, are meant to make us sit back, relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of a world that is about to be shattered by the arrival of war, an innocence that is going to end by growing up and a paradise that is bound to be lost as we come to the final scene of the film.

Reem A. H. Yasla

JORDAN TELEVISION

JTV Foreign-programme cycle: Starting 1 April 1984

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
6:30	FRENCH PROGRAMME						
7:00	NEWS IN FRENCH						
7:20							
7:30	NEWS IN HEBREW						
7:45	Cybernetics,	Science World	Diplomats Cook for You	Athletics	Variety	Fight Against Hunger	Counting & Measuring
8:00	NEWS IN ARABIC						
8:30	Marlowe	Empire	Jennifer Slept Here	Tales of the Unexpected	The Blue and the Grey	Chicago Stories	Buffalo Bill
9:00		Crown Court	Documentary	Towards 2000			Variety
	Towards 2000		Saturday Variety Show	Napoleon and Love	Science International		Documentary
	Reggie				Doctor at Large		
10:00	NEWS IN ENGLISH						
10:15	Feature Film	Magnum, P.I.	Feature Film	Best Seller: Return to Eden	Verdi	Thriller: Shades of Darkness	Hotel
11:05							
11:15	NEWS SUMMARY IN ARABIC						
12:00							

SOLUTIONS

Chess

1 R×B! Q×R; 2 B–B4 ch, K–R1 (if K–B1; 3 R–R5 traps the queen, or if R–K3; 3 Q–Q7 wins); 3 R–R5! Resigns. If 3...Q–KB1; 4 R×P ch! K×R; 5 Q–R5 mate.

Target

Enlist entitle epistle inept inlet inset instep islet istle leet lent lest lint listen nest nestle nett nettle pelt pent pest PESTILENT pestle pint pintle sent silt site sleet slept slit spelt spent split spinet spit spite spittle splint split steel steep stele step stat stile still stint stipe stiple tenet tense tensile tent test tile tilt tine tinsel tint title.

Crossword

CRYPTIC SOLUTION

ACROSS.—8, Con-tain. 9, Sup-port-er. 13, Clear. 14, Shoot. 15, Tackles. 16, Miss-i-oN. 17, Tw-i-ne. 18, Brake (break). 20, Sh-rug. 22, Locker. 23, Par-ro-t. 25, Gar-on-ne. 27, Leaning. 30, Drifts. 31, Pa-rent. 32, C-heat. 35, The-s-e. 36, Le-h-ar. 37, Aver-age. 39, Shatter. 41, Twist. 42, All-ot. 43, Con-genial. 34, Ancient.

DOWN.—1, R-owers. 2, Star-l-ing. 3, Miss England. 4, Cur-tal-led. 5, Spotted. 6, Crack-brain. 7, Well. 10, Scamps. 11, Co-ntac-t. 12, Asse-N-t. 19, Arrange. 21, Re-alise. 24, Neutral tint. 26, On the s-tage. 28, Man-hat-tan. 29, Refrain. 30, DeT-est. 32, Clematis. 33, Tr-eat-y. 34, Glaring. 38, A-i-ling. 40, A-V-on.

EASY SOLUTION

ACROSS.—8, Consume. 9, Courteous. 13, Rupee. 14, Rival. 15, Triplet. 16, Erratic. 17, Races. 18, Attic. 20, Typed. 22, Inured. 23, Litres. 25, Stellar. 27, Iranian. 30, Groans. 31, Malaga. 32, Easel. 35, Electi 36, Lyric. 37, Wrestle. 39. Tallest. 41, Colon. 42, Aisle. 43, Undeleted. 44, Reposed.

DOWN.—1, Copper. 2, Assented. 3, Impractical. 4, Collected. 5, Protest. 6, Dedication. 7, Hull. 10, Priest. 11, Overdue. 12, Sticks. 19, Threats. 21, Pothole. 24, Breadwinner. 26, Lengthened. 28, Barracked. 29. Parcels. 30, Greets. 32, Elevator. 33 Lieder. 34. Flutter. 38, Tasted. 40, [illegible] LENT

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre	669026
American Centre	41520
British Council	36147
French Centre	37009
Goethe Institute	41993
Soviet Centre	44203
Spanish Centre	24049
Turkish Centre	39777
Haya Arts Centre	665195

RENT-A-CAR

Avis	41350
Al Rimal	39861
Aqaba	662318
Bisharah	37830
Budget	38787
Dairi	41683
Farah	37204
Firas	664137
Haddad	71707
Hishani	43730
Jorac	44938
National	39197
Philadelphia	35191
Petra	37204
Satellite	25767
Salwadi	664245
Said	667430
Tyche	25700
T.T.T	665113
United	31999

HOTELS

Amman

Amra	815071
Holiday Inn	663100
Marriott	660100
Regency	660000
Crown	71256
Jerusalem Melia	665094
Intercontinental	41361
Ambassador	665186
Commodore	665181
Middle East	667150
Grand Palace	661121
Tyche	661114
International	841772
San Rock	813801
Jordan Tower	661161
Philadelphia	25191

Aqaba

Holiday Inn	2426
Al-Manar	4341
Al-Cazar	4131
Coral Beach	3521
Aquamarina	4333
Aqaba	2056

EMBASSIES

Algerian	41271-3
N Yemen	42381
Australian	43247
Bahraini	664148
Belgian	675683
British	41261
Bulgarian	38384
Chad	38140
Canadian	666124-6
Chilean	661336
Czechoslovak	665105
French	41273-4
German	41351
Greek	4333172
Haitian Consulate	23163
Hungarian	44916
Indian	37028
Iraqi	39331/2
Italian	38185
Japanese	42486
Yugoslav	665107
Kuwaiti	41235
Lebanese	41381
Libyan	666118
Moroccan	41452
North Korean	666349
Omani	661131
Pakistani	23787
Chinese	666139
Philippine	661642
Polish	37153
Qatar	44331
Romanian	667738
Saudi Arabian	814154
South Korean	42268
Spanish	22140
Sudanese	24145
Swiss	44416
Syrian	41392
Tunisian	44307
Turkish	41251
U.S.A	44371
U.A.E.	44369
USSR	41158
UNTSO	41341
UNRWA	38725
Danish Consulate	22334
Netherlands Consulate	37967
Norwegian	37164

AIRLINES

Alia	24131
Alitalia	25203
Austrian	37390
Aeroflot	41510
Air Canada	30879
Air France	37171
British	41430
Cathay Pacific	24363
Cyprus	38787
Egyptair	36011
Gulfair	665311
Interflug	30879
Iraqi	23648
Japan	40879
KLM	22175
Korean	24805
Kuwait	30144
Libyan	662320
Lufthansa	41305/44236
Malev	[illegible]
MEA	36104
Olympic	[illegible]
Pan Am	[illegible]
Qantas	[illegible]
Saudia	[illegible]
Somalia	[illegible]
Sabena	[illegible]
SAS	[illegible]
Singapore	[illegible]
Swiss Air	[illegible]
Syrian	[illegible]
Thai	[illegible]
Tarom	[illegible]
Yarig	[illegible]
Yugoslav	[illegible]

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance	193,75111
First aid, fire, police	199
Blood Bank	75121
Civil Defence	[illegible]
Rescue	661111
Fire Headquarters	22090-3
Police Rescue	192-21111-37777
Police Headquarters	39090/3
Traffic Police	56390-1
Electric Power Co.	36381-2
Municipal Water Service	71125-8

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre	813813-32
Khalidi Maternity	44281-4
Al Amal	42441
Malhas, J. Amman	36140
Palestine	664171-4
University Hospital	845845

MUSEUMS

Jordan National Gallery	30128
Alia Art Gallery	662181
Folklore Museum	51760
Popular Life of Jordan Museum	51742
Archaeological Museum	38795
Military Museum	664240

GENERAL

Jordan Television; Radio Jordan; Ministry of Tourism; Hotel Complaints; Price Complaints; Amman Municipal Library; University of Jordan Library; Telephone information; Jordan and Middle East calls; Overseas Calls; Cable or Telegram; Repair Service; Queen Alia International Airport [numbers illegible]

BRIDGE by Terence Reese

North
♠ 8 3
♡ A K 6 3
♢ K Q 9 6 5 3
♣ 9

West
♠ K 10 7 6
♡ J 9 7 4
♢ 10
♣ K 6 4 2

East
♠ A J 4
♡ 8 2
♢ J 7 4 2
♣ Q 10 8 7

South
♠ Q 9 5 2
♡ Q 10 5
♢ A 8
♣ A J 5 3

Dealer North: Game all

You might call this a typical hand, because the best play depends on accurate appreciation of the possibilities in two suits.

North opened One Diamond and South — one of those players who consider it a duty to respond in a four-card major — bid One Spade. (If you ask what else, the answer is 2NT.) Not strong enough to reverse with Two Hearts, North bid Two Diamonds, and now South ventured 3 NT.

West began with a low heart, which ran to the declarer's 10. South played Ace and another diamond, discovering the bad break. There was nothing to do but clear the diamonds, and when he came in with the Jack of Diamonds East made the natural, and correct, play of the Jack of spades. South covered with the Queen and soon found himself one down, having lost one diamond and four spades.

A player with good technical knowledge would have realised that the spades were safe from dangerous attack so long as West had the first lead. As five tricks from diamonds and three from hearts would be enough for the contract, South should win the opening heart lead in dummy and play a diamond to the 8. This play guarantees the contract against any lie of the cards except when the diamonds are 5—0.

TARGET The Word Game

L	I	P
E	T	S
N	E	T

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only.

Each word must contain the large letter, and there must be at least one nine-letter word in the list. No plurals; no foreign words; no proper names. TODAY'S TARGET: 46 words, good: 57 words, very good: 67 words, excellent.

Miles (England) v Kindermann (West Germany), Biel 1983. White's next few moves ensured Tony Miles a share of the £2000 tournament first prize, plus a special award for the most brilliant finish of the event. How did the game go? Switzerland's traditional Biel international for Grand Masters proved a double British success when London's GM John Nunn shared victory with Miles.

"I never thought I'd live to see it — a tempest in a teacup."

ALL SOLUTIONS ON P 30

CRYPTIC PUZZLE

Use the same diagram for either the Cryptic or the Easy puzzle.

ACROSS

8 Hold, to examine, a tin that's dented (7)
9 Who cheers-when-the-boxer gets a very good left in? (9)
13 Faultless: that's obvious (5)
14 Come out and dump something (5)
15 Knocks and confronts one (7)
16 The girl gets back first from the job (7)
17 Went dancing round one in turn (5)
18 Stop when we're told to have a rest (5)
20 Say nothing when on the mat, to show you don't care (5)
22 Does he never leave the cupboard open? (6)
23 Or miscast in the role of the imitator (6)
25 On getting within possible range of the river (7)
27 A propensity for tipping (7)
30 Goes off to sleep in the snow? (6)
31 What it would cost to hire a father, or maybe a mother? (6)
32 Cold and warmth do (5)
35 For a second, you hold the ones here (5)
36 He composed "The Hard-hearted King" (5)
37 "No worse than most," you say, "at the time" (7)
39 The star turn will amaze you (7)
41 Be unfair and distort what one said (5)
42 Give out, making everybody turn to (5)
43 Compatible, as opposed to amiable (9)
44 I can renovate the ten, ramshackle and old (7)

DOWN

1 The boatmen are, with rain, worse off (6)
2 Taking a good look, left in the bird (8)
3 Feel homesick, lovely lady? (4, 7)
4 Shortened, gave it a wave and permed the ends (9)
5 Saw it was dappled (7)
6 A first-class mind, but he's mad (10)
7 Fit properly (4)
10 Doesn't do a good job for the rascals (6)
11 In bed, can't get out to ring one (7)
12 Agree it's a good thing to fix the pole into (6)
19 Order a score? (7)
21 See, again, the seal I trained (7)
24 Colour of the peace-keeping force's uniform? (7, 4)
26 Acting as though he's not broken the gate by swinging (2, 3, 5)
28 The fellow with the titfer (brown) and the cocktail (9)
29 The music won't do (7)
30 Can't stand when the man stands, at the outset (6)
32 The new list came from the nursery (8)
33 By agreement, will endeavour to have meals in (6)
34 Either having an enormous beam or looking furious (7)
38 Sick of a lunch-time fish (6)
40 Taking a number over by river (4)

EASY PUZZLE

ACROSS

8 Eat (7)
9 Well-mannered (9)
13 Indian monetary unit (5)
14 Competitor (5)
15 Multiple-birth child (7)
16 Unpredictable (7)
17 Competitions (5)
18 Garret (5)
20 Used a secretarial skill (5)
22 Hardened (6)
23 Units of capacity (6)
25 Of the stars (7)
27 Persian (7)
30 Expresses discomfort (6)
31 Spanish port (6)
32 Painter's stand (5)
35 Vote into office (5)
36 Song (5)
37 Grapple (7)
39 Highest (7)
41 Punctuation mark (5)
42 Church gangway (5)
43 Not crossed out (9)
44 Rested (7)

DOWN

1 Metal (6)
2 Agreed (8)
3 Not feasible (11)
4 Gathered (9)
5 Raise objections (7)
6 Complete devotion (10)
7 Ship's body (4)
10 Cleric (6)
11 Late (7)
12 Adheres (6)
19 Menaces (7)
21 Road surface flaw (7)
24 Family provider (11)
26 Extended (10)
28 Heckled (9)
29 Packages (7)
30 Hails (6)
32 Lift (8)
33 German art-songs (6)
34 Small bet (7)
38 Sampled (6)
40 Period before Easter (4)

Jordanian Images

By Saleh Abu Shindi

A scene from Al-Fuheis